

AC. 4538

~~THE~~ INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE,  
10, Parks Road, Oxford.



INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL  
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,  
OXFORD

County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

Annual Report  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health

1944

MERTHYR TYDFIL:  
JOSEPH WILLIAMS AND SONS (MERTHYR), LIMITED.

1946

7302



COUNTY BOROUGH OF MERTHYR TYDFIL.



# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1944

MERTHYR TYDFIL

JOSEPH WILLIAMS AND SONS (MERTHYR), LIMITED.

1946



# INDEX.

---

	<i>Page</i>
Members of Committees and Officials .....	5
Medical Officer's Report.....	10
General Statistics .....	12
Births .....	12
Deaths .....	13
Infantile Mortality .....	17
Infant Welfare Centres.....	19
Maternity and Child Welfare.....	20
Maternal Mortality .....	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	24
Infant Life Protection.....	24
Infectious Diseases .....	25
Return Shewing Work of Tuberculosis Dispensaries.....	31
Orthopædic Cases of Children not Attending School.....	35
Cancer and Malignant Disease.....	36
Public Assistance Administration .....	37
Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1927 .....	39
Mardy Hospital .....	40
Other Hospitals .....	42
Professional Nursing in the Home.....	44
Vaccination.....	45
Water Supply.....	46
Chemical and Bacteriological Investigations .....	46
Laboratory Work .....	46
Milk Supply and Milk Licenses.....	47
Slaughter-house and Meat Inspection .....	48
Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.....	48

# INDEX—continued.

	<i>Page</i>
Closet Accommodation.....	49
Scavenging .....	49
Sanitary Inspections .....	51
Lodging-houses.....	54
Offensive Trades .....	54
Schools.....	54
Rats and Mice Destruction .....	54
Factories Act, 1937 .....	55
Shops Act, 1912-1938 .....	55
Housing .....	57-60
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.....	61
Places Where Food is Prepared .....	62
Food and Drugs Adulteration .....	63
Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations .....	63
Dental Report .....	66
—————	
Table I—Vital Statistics .....	67
Table II—Infant Mortality .....	70
Table IIA—Infant Mortality in the various Wards .....	72
Tables III—Medical Officer's Report on Factories.....	74-76

# County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

---

## List of Health Committees and Officials.

---

### HEALTH COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :*

Alderman L. M. JONES, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor H. I. WILLIAMS.

*Members :*

Aldermen S. Jennings, T. E. Rees, J. Williams, W. Powell and L. M. Jones ; Councillors D. J. Morgan, L. Jones, D. O'Driscoll, Mrs. Aubrey, A. J. Brobyn, B. J. Williams, B. M. Davies, Mrs. Thomas, J. H. Jones, H. I. Williams and A. Wilson, with the Mayor and Ex-Mayor.

### MARDY HOSPITAL SUB-COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :* Alderman L. M. JONES, J.P.

*Members :*

Aldermen John Williams, S. Jennings, W. Powell, and L. Jones ; Councillors Mrs. Thomas, H. I. Williams, Brobyn, B. J. Williams and O'Driscoll, with the Mayor.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

*Chairman :*

Alderman L. M. JONES, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Councillor H. I. WILLIAMS.

with the Members of the Health Committee.

*Co-opted Members :* Mrs. Bell and Mrs. McPhail.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

## MEDICAL :

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer, Superintendent Isolation Hospital, Medical Officer Public Assistance Committee, Medical Officer under Mental Deficiency Act.

W. G. LEONARD HALL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Assistant Medical Officer of Health (half-time), Assistant School Medical Officer. \*

DILYS STEPHENS, B.SC., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

LYNDA B. POWELL, B.SC., M.B., B.CH.

MONICA P. MORTON, B.SC., M.B., B.CH.

S. BLOOM, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part time) Medical Officer to Venereal Clinic, Public Vaccinator, Tydfil Lodge.

C. M. PROBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Tydfil Lodge.

DRS. S. CRESSWELL, S. BLOOM, M. BLOOM, R. RYCE, C. R. WHITE and M. ROBERTSON, District Medical Officers and Public Vaccinators. .

MR. A. O. PARKER, Visiting Orthopædic Surgeon to Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

PROFESSOR STRACHAN, M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.P., F.C.O.G., Consulting Gynæcologist and Obstetrician.

D. J. JONES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., District Medical Officer, Dowlais.

ROBERT OWEN, F.R.C.S., Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon.

\* In H.M. Forces.



**Public Health Officers to the Local Authority—continued.**

**DENTAL.**

J. A. WYLIE, L.D.S., Dental Officer to the Maternity and Child Welfare Department, School Dental Officer.

E. STANLEY EDWARDS, L.D.S., Assistant Dental Officer.

**ANALYTICAL.**

RHYS CHARLES, F.S.C., F.C.S. (part time), Public Analyst; also acts as part-time Bacteriologist.

**SANITARY.**

L. MILLS, M.R.S.I., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for inspection of meat and other foods, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

B. WILLIAMS, A.R.S.I., A.R.P.S., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for inspection of meat and other foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts.

IORWERTH THOMAS, A.R.S.I., A.R.P.S., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspection of Meat and other Foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drug Acts.

D. A. JONES, A.R.S.I., L.A.R.P., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspection of Meat and other Foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drug Acts.\*

CYRIL STUCKEY, A.R.S.I., Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspection of Meat and other Foods, Sanitary Inspector, Inspector under the Housing Acts, Inspector under the Food and Drug Acts.\*

\* In H.M. Forces.

**Public Health Officers to the Local Authority—continued.**

SPENCER P. HARRIS, A.R.S.I., L.A.R.P., Sanitary Inspector, Shops Inspector, Inspector under the Food and Drugs Acts, Inspector under Housing Acts (Part Year).

CLERICAL.

*Chief Clerk* : TERRY THOMAS, C.R.S.I., L.A.R.P.

I. CHARLES, L.A.R.P.\* J. A. WILLIAMS.\* NEAL DAVIS, L.A.R.P.\*  
S. LEWIS. W. HUGHES (Part Year). BETTY OWEN, L.A.R.P.  
GLADYS EVANS. M. P. JONES, L.A.R.P. F. BROWN. THELMA  
SMALL. AVERILL WILLIAMS.

VETERINARY SURGEON (part-time).

Major W. D. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.V.S., "Gormont," Caerphilly.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES.

M. J. PARRY, C.M.B., C.R.S.I. (trained nurse).

E. WILLIAMS, C.R.S.I., Fever and Tuberculosis Training.

A. L. EVANS, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).

D. PETERS, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).

M. JELLYMAN, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).

\* In H.M. Forces.

**Public Health Officers to the Local Authority—continued.**

- E. J. WATKINS, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).
- M.. GEORGE, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).
- I. LEWIS, C.M.B., New Health Visitor's Certificate (trained nurse).

*Supervisor of Midwives* : Miss A. DAVIES.

*Midwives* : Nurses L. M. DOWSE, A. HENNESSEY, H. THORNE, M. JONES, B. LEWIS, H. DAVIES A. SUSSEX, B. CARLICK, B. M. JONES, M. J. WILLIAMS, E. A. GILLAM.

**ORTHOPAEDIC NURSE.**

M. JARMAN. For Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

**DENTAL NURSE.**

M. EVANS. For Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL STAFF.**

*Matron* : C. JONES. Four Sisters, one Assistant Nurse and twelve Probationers.

County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

---

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.**

---

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
MERTHYR TYDFIL.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the Annual Report for the year 1944 of the vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil. The Report is in accordance with the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health, but before coming to the body of the report, I shall be reviewing the past public health conditions in the Borough, and contrasting some of the conditions in 1944 with those prevailing in the period 1849-1855, and even with those existing as recently as 1905-1928. For this purpose I propose, in the first place, quoting an address delivered by Dr. Dyke, one of your Medical Officers of Health, to the British Medical Association in Cardiff in July, 1885 :—

## ADDRESS ON PUBLIC MEDICINE.

---

In this Address I propose, very briefly, to state the more prominent facts in the *Health History* of Merthyr Tydfil, believing with Dr. NORMAN CHEEVERS that, to pourtray in truthful words the unfavourable influences which have been detrimental to the health of the people who have resided in this upland valley ; and the beneficial results which have followed upon the removal of those influences, by the introduction of means promotive of good health ; I believe such an accurate description of accomplished facts will be of as much value as the charming story, told by one of the most eminent of sanitarians, of an *ideal City of Health*.

The Parish of Merthyr Tydfil is situated at the upper part of the Valley of the Taff, near the confluence of the greater and lesser Taff Rivers, at a distance of 17 to 26 miles north of Cardiff. The area of the parish is nearly 18,000 acres, it is about nine miles in length, wedge-shaped, being four miles wide at the northern part, lessening to a point at its southern end. Along the whole length the River Taff runs in a deep valley, the ridges of mountains on each side rising to heights from 1,000 to 1,600 feet above the sea. The two rivers have their sources near the summits of the Breconshire Beacons, nearly 3,000 feet above the sea. Necessarily, the climate is cold and wet : the rainfall averaging 57 inches annually.

The old Town of Merthyr is placed in the centre of the valley at its widest part, 500 feet above the sea. Along the valley, and following the courses of the streams flowing into the Taff, many villages and towns—(especially the Town of Dowlais on the north-east, and the district of Cyfarthfa on the north-west)—have from time to time been formed, as the works for the manufacture of iron, and for the getting of coal, have sprung up.

Sir HENRY DE LA BECHE says : “ The rocks on which the town “ stands form the stratification of coal-beds, shales, and sand- “ stones known as the coal measures, with which, in this district “ and for a long line of country, are intermixed beds of clay iron- “ stone.” To these ironstones formerly, but *now* to the beds of *steam coal*, and to the limestone quarried in immediate proximity on the north of the parish, Merthyr Tydfil owes its importance, as one of the principal seats of the Iron and Steel Manufacture, and of the districts whence annually are exported the far-famed *Smokeless Steam Coal*.

In his Report to the General Board of Health in 1850, the Inspector, Mr. RAMMELL, says : “ The rise of Merthyr Tydfil as a “ seat of industry and wealth may be attributed to the period when “ the use of pit coal, instead of charcoal, was found applicable to “ the working of iron. About 1748 the Dowlais district was leased “ by an ancestor of the LEWIS’, of Llanishen, in conjunction with “ an ancestor of the GUESTS’, of Dowlais. In 1755, Mr. BACON “ obtained a lease for 99 years of a mineral tract, full of coal and “ iron ore : the whole of the leasehold interest in this property “ passed, at the close of the last century, into the hands of the “ CRAWSHAYS, of Cyfarthfa. Other mineral districts, as Peny- “ darran and Plymouth, were taken at almost nominal rents.”

The population of Merthyr Parish in 1801 was 7,705 : in 1881 41,857 : and in 1885 it was estimated at 52,500 : occupying 10,438 houses. The houses of the working classes (that is of 45 out of the 52 thousand inhabitants), are 3 or 4-roomed cottages, two on the ground floor, and one or two on the first story. They are built of a sandstone which is frequently of a very porous nature, and the ground-floors are mostly paved with stone. Those houses which were first built, when the Iron Works were being established (1750 to 1780) were chiefly built against a wall of earth, and hence these have always been damp and unventilated.

Sir HENRY DE LA BECHE, reporting in 1843-4, says “ there “ was no water supply—there were some privies at the few decent



“houses, but none to cottages. Slops and refuse were thrown on to unmetalled and unchannelled highways and streets, and on mounds of coal-ashes at every turn. There was a great number of poor as indicated by the fact that between 6,000 and 7,000 persons, out of a population of 37,000 (one out of six), were relieved from the poor-rates annually.”

In 1849, Mr. RAMMELL states : “The town of Merthyr Tydfil was entirely destitute of drainage, no provision was made for excrement removal ; there was an utter want of a proper provision for supplying the town with water ; in the few wells which existed, the water was bad in quality, from natural hardness or from impurities which had permeated through the soil into the wells. There were 21 burial grounds in various parts of the town.”

In 1852 Dr. WILLIAM KAY was temporarily elected Officer of Health : he concluded his report thus :—“The unhealthiness of Merthyr is attributable to local and selfcreated conditions, the vicious construction of the houses, the inadequate supply of water, the absence of drainage, and the necessary consequences, accumulation of filth, atmospheric impurity, and the extensive and fatal prevalence of disease.”

Mr. SIMON, then Medical Officer to the Privy Council, in his Ninth Annual Report, writing of Merthyr :—“In our statistics it showed every possible evidence of sanitary neglect ; in Fever, in Diarrhœa, in Cholera, in Small-pox, in Phthisis, and other Lung Diseases, and in mortality of children it always was conspicuously bad, and the water-supply was *cruelly scant* and *disgustingly foul*.”

I cannot better sum up this description of an unhealthy town than by quoting the statistics collected by Dr. GEORGE BUCHANAN and published in the above-cited report.

“During the period of 11 years, 1845–1855, *before* any sanitary works were in actual operation, except the removal of accumulated mounds of ashes, &c., the death-rate from all causes, at

“ all ages, was 332 *per* ten thousand inhabitants ; the death-rate  
“ of children *under one year*, from all causes  $80\frac{1}{4}$  ; of persons of  
“ all ages from Fever, excluding Typhus,  $21\frac{1}{3}$  ; from Diarrhœa,  
“ at all ages,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  ; from Phthisis, between ages of 15 – 55,  $38\frac{2}{3}$   
“ *per* 10,000 of the population.”

I will leave this disagreeable picture of the results of long-continued neglect, and turn to a brighter one.

### SANITARY WORKS AND STATISTICAL RESULTS.

The Board of Health was formed in 1850 ; an accomplished Surveyor was appointed ; the inspection of streets, lanes, and houses was established ; the daily removal of house refuse was provided for ; paving, channelling, and in a few instances drainage works were carried out. An Act was obtained by a private Company to supply the town with water, the powers granted to the Company were transferred to the Local Board, who directed Mr. HAWKSLEY to carry out his scheme, and in 1860 a partial supply was afforded from standpipes, free to all who desired to fetch water therefrom, and in 1862 nearly the whole of the houses in Merthyr and Dowlais received a constant supply of water, averaging  $3^{\circ}$  of hardness, free from any pollution. The lengths of mains and branch water pipes laid was  $68\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

During the earlier years of the Board's labours, 1850 to 1855 the progress was very slow ; but during the second period of ten years, 1856 to 1865, the sanitary work accomplished bore abundant fruit, for the death-rate from all causes was reduced to 271 *per* 10,000 ; that of infants to 67 ; that from Fever, at all ages, to  $10\frac{1}{2}$  ; from Phthisis to  $37\frac{1}{2}$  ; and from Diarrhœa to 9 *per* 1000.

The third period of ten years, from 1866 to 1875, was profitably occupied in the construction of main and branch sewers, and of all the Sanitary appliances attached thereto, while the Board



were assiduous in requiring the attention of their Officers to the diligent search for causes of disease, and the early removal of any discovered cause. The sewers were commenced in 1865, and completed in 1868 ; 55 miles in length of main, and lateral sewers were constructed. The sewage was conveyed in mains to a point  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the centre of the town ; there a mixture of lime and alum was added to the stream, which then flowed onward to the straining tanks. The dissolved sewage passed through the materials for straining, and was run into the River Taff, half a mile below the village of Troedyrhiw. A new Colliery, that of Merthyr Vale, was at this time established on the east bank of the Taff, about a mile below the outlet of the sewage into the river : a nuisance was undoubtedly caused, an injunction was obtained, and the work of connecting residences with the main sewers was arrested until 1872. Happily for Merthyr, the publication of Dr EDWARD FRANKLAND'S Report on the proper means to be used for the filtration of sewage, had attracted the attention of Mr. J. BAILEY DENTON, who, in a paper read at Maidstone on the 24th November, 1870, explained his views as to the practical mode to be adopted to carry out the clarifying of sewage suggested by Dr. FRANKLAND.

By the direction of the late Lord JUSTICE JAMES (a Merthyr man), Mr. BAILEY DENTON was directed to try practically the method suggested ; the filtering areas were formed near the outlet of the sewers, the sewage was passed over the prepared land, and Dr. FRANKLAND reported that on the 10th June, 1871, when the sewage stream of 800,000 gallons *per* day was being passed over *ten* acres of prepared land, " the water entering the Taff " from the Merthyr Intermittent Filters was considerably purer " than the Thames water, which we are often compelled to drink " in London." This work having been completed, the connection of closets with the drains was proceeded with, so that in 1875 nearly all the properties in Merthyr and Dowlais were properly drained.

The results of the care exhibited, and of the supply of pure water, pure air, and increased cleanliness in and around dwellings,

were the diminution of the death-rate at all ages to 256 *per* 10,000, of deaths of infants under one year to 65, of deaths from fevers to 6, from Phthisis to  $21\frac{1}{2}$ , and from Diarrhœa to 4 *per* 10,000, while the average age at death, stated by Dr. KAY to be  $17\frac{1}{2}$  years in 1851, was increased to 25 years.

During the *fourth* period of *nine* years, 1876 to 1884, in addition to the various works I have indicated, the Board arranged for the purchase and laying out of nearly 400 acres of land on a plain some six miles from the site of the filtering areas. These lands were laid out by the Board's Surveyor, Mr. SAMUEL HARPUR, for the disposal of sewage by wide Irrigation. It became also necessary to provide a reservoir at a point further north in the valley of the lesser Taff River to supply water to the town of Dowlais, (in lieu of the expensive process of pumping from the Merthyr supply basins) and to the rising village of Treharris. The whole of the works of inspection, of careful cleansing of filtering basins, of regular flushing of water-mains, were assiduously carried out.

The results were, the death-rate, at all ages, fell to 232 *per* 10,000; that of infants to 50; that from Fevers to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ ; that from Phthisis, to  $18\frac{1}{2}$ ; and from Diarrhœa to 3 *per* 10,000.

I should tell you, also, that three outbreaks of Cholera occurred in the parish. In 1849, when the death-rate *per* 10,000 people from this malady was 267; in 1854, when the rate was 83; and in 1866, when it fell to 20 *per* 10,000. The proportion of deaths from Cholera to population in the year 1849, before any sanitary works were begun, was *one out of every thirty*; while the proportion in 1866, when cleansing refuse, channelling and metalling roadways had been done, and an excellent water supply had been afforded, the death-rate from Cholera and Choleraic Diarrhœa, was only *one out of every 400* of the people.

The outcome of these figures is this: The death-rate from all causes has been lessened by 30 years of Sanitary work from 332 to 232 *per* 10,000. The deaths of infants under one year, from 80 to 50 *per* 10,000; that from Fevers from 21 to  $3\frac{7}{8}$ ; that from Phthisis

from 38 to  $18\frac{1}{2}$ ; from Diarrhœa from 11 to 3 *per* 10,000; while the average age at death has been increased from  $17\frac{1}{2}$  years to 27 years.

You will ask how it is that while the death-rates from so many maladies have been so greatly lessened, that the *general* death-rate still remains so high as 232 *per* 10,000. The answer will be found in the following statement of the rates of mortality from acute Lung Diseases, at all ages, during the periods of time I have cited. Thus in the first period 1845 to 1855, the rate was 28 *per* 10,000; in 1856-65, it increased to 35; in 1866-75, it was 43; and in 1876-84, it was raised to 47 *per* 10,000.

Much of the proclivity to Bronchial Catarrh and its sequences must be undoubtedly be ascribed to the locality in which our population resides, a parish situated high amongst the mountains, having a wet and cold climate, and a soil sparingly permeable to water: much also must be due to the characteristics of the labours of the working-men. Some, engaged at the Iron and Steel Works, are exposed to all weathers at all hours of the night as well as day; labouring either at the blazing furnace, the boiling steel, or the glowing rail: others occupied as colliers, toiling half-a-mile underground in a heated atmosphere, impregnated with coal gases and coal dust, and when labour is done, raised to the earth's surface at the pit's mouth, on the bleak mountain side, borne homewards in railway carriages, or painfully trudging across lofty heaths to their cottage homes. The liability to chills, induced by such compulsory modes of life, must be apparent, and this liability, together with the vicissitudes of climate, will account for the extreme prevalence of Acute Lung Diseases.

Possibly also the fact that, as Sanitary Works proceeded, the numbers of the people *native* to the town increased (for many years the numbers were kept up by the immigration of strangers) there would hence be a larger number living who had tided over the perils of the maladies of childhood, yet being left *delicate*, would be the more accessible to Catarrhal influences.

It will be well to state here the costs of the structural works made, and of the professional and other labour employed during the period of 30 years which have contributed so greatly to the health of the people.

The works for water-supply have cost £155,000. The works for sewers, sewage irrigation and filtration, including the purchase of lands, £105,000 ; a total of £260,000. To this sum should be added the charges for scavenging, gas-lighting, paving, channelling, interest on money borrowed, and the establishment charges for the whole period, say £240,000 : in all £500,000. The annual district rate for the last 10 years has been  $\frac{3}{8}$  in the £. The present annual income from the water-rents is £5,300 ; from payments made by the Aberdare Urban Authority, who, together with the Mountain Ash Urban Authority, use the wide irrigation areas, and from lands and houses, and the profits of farming, £3,620 ; thus giving an annual income of £8,920. While the properties of the Local Board (that is the Water Works, Freehold Lands, Houses, &c.), are now estimated to be worth £300,000.

A consideration of the facts I have stated will bring out prominently two conclusions :

Sanitary works well planned, well executed, and thoroughly worked, conduce—

1st, To better health and longer life ;

2nd, Become a source of profitable income to communities.

## WATER SUPPLY.

From these statistics I pass on to consider certain of the means which were used for the promotion of the health of our people, and will first say a few words as to the Water Supply. In doing so, I am sure I shall be telling you all, things which each of you have noted, and it is with the object of asking you to *re-consider* the observations you have made, and regard them in the light which I do, that I venture to ask your attention to the subject.



The water is obtained for the use of the town of Merthyr direct from the lesser Taff River, at a place where it is only slightly exposed to the possibility of pollution from some farm buildings. It passes at once into a straining basin, and through some coarsely broken stone and sandy pebbles, into the main supply pipe. The pipes have a diameter of 14 inches, and through these the water runs for a distance of six or seven miles. I would ask you to note that the materials used for straining are so coarse, as to allow portions of leaves, seeds, eggs of fish, and even the small fry of fish, to pass into the supply pipe. The rock of the district is the old red sandstone, and after heavy rain the water becomes more or less highly coloured by the fine particles of this sandstone carried down by rain. In the autumn, it is frequently tinged of a brown colour from the presence of peaty matter in suspension. Now this peaty matter adheres to the sides of the iron pipes, and forms a glutinous bed in which particles of sand are gradually deposited. The result has been that after only 20 year's use, the diameter of the pipes has been lessened from 14 inches to 12 inches.

Now, it appears to me that wherever water for domestic use may be obtained—whether from abundant springs, from a river, or from a reservoir, that it should be carefully filtered from all matters in suspension *BEFORE it passes into the supply pipe.*

The supply pipes empty into receiving basins placed on a hill side, north of the town, at an elevation of 250 feet above it. In these receiving basins I have observed large trout, minnows, and other fish, and growths of water plants of considerable length.

From these settling basins, the water passes over the rim of a funnel, in a very thin film downwards to the *filtering* basins. Watching this thin film, you would observe much foreign matter, stems of grass, flowers, seeds, &c., floating on the surface, being carried onward to the funnel. In the filtering basins into which the water is passed, it remains perfectly still, and then filters slowly through a deep layer of sand, and you would observe that while

this slow process of filtration is going on, water and other plants *grow* in the water.

The water obtained after filtration gives indications of a certain small amount of nitrogen, of chlorine derived from the sand, and of carbon from the vegetable matter in solution.

Microscopic examination displays various forms of minute plants, of bacteria, and of water insect life.

Again I ask the question, should water intended for human use contain, *after filtration*, any evidence of the presence of impurity derived from fish, from vegetable decomposition, or from the presence of microbes?

The discoveries in the history of plant life which have been made known by the enquiries of those greatly distinguished men, PASTEUR and DAVINE, KOCH and HIRSCHFELD, TOMMASI-CRUELI and MARCHIAFAVA, STERNBERG and TYNDALL, LISTER and CHEYNE and a crowd of others, the universal presence of "the motes in the sunbeam," of the spores of parasitic microphytes in the air, in and around the habitations of men, wafted by every wind over hill and dale, their recognized facility of growth in water—all these point to the absolute necessity of constructing some mode of freeing drinking water from all these possible evil influences upon human health.

The history of many outbreaks of disease consequent upon the use of milk diluted with impure water; the known facts relating to the propagation of Enteric Fever; the recent researches into the mode whereby Asiatic Cholera may be propagated; the frequency of attacks of Diarrhœa amongst children (water-drinkers) in the autumn, when that fluid most frequently contains decomposing vegetable matter in suspension, all these should direct your attention to the answer which shall be given to the question I have placed before you.

Having suggested the enquiry, you will ask—Are you prepared with any thought on the subject? Let me very briefly ask you to

recall an experiment which, doubtless, every man here has witnessed when attending his course of chemical lectures. Under the glass bell of the air pump was placed a cup of boxwood containing some quicksilver. The air was withdrawn, and the fluid mercury was observed on the floor of the apparatus, having passed through the pores of the wood, leaving, let it be noted, the dross on the surface of the wood. This, to my mind, is what a *filter* should do: nothing but *fluid* should pass through it. Of course any matter in *solution* would not, by filtration, be got rid of, but all matters in *suspension* should remain on the surface of the filter.

Recently, as you are aware, a mode of filtration or separation of all matters in *suspension* in water, has been suggested by the illustrious PASTEUR, namely, that of passing water through porous porcelain; and while writing this paper I have been fortunate enough to read in the *Journal D'Hygiene*, of 21st May, 1885, an article by Monsieur MALLIE, Civil Engineer, of Paris, in which he describes and figures an appliance illustrative of the principle which PASTEUR has mentioned. This appliance, a filter made of unglazed porcelain, is attached to the tap of the house supply, and thus the pressure of the *column of water* is utilized to procure rapid filtration.

In RANSOMES' and other filters, a compact and yet permeable material is used, and many varieties of filters may be attached to the supply pipe of the town or city water works, and thus the principle of rapid filtration through a compact porous material is effected: but, to my mind, filtration through such a material should be done at the *source of the water supply*, and that supply should *never come into contact with the air until it is drawn from the house tap*.

This is the application of the true principle of water filtration which I ask you to consider. Hydraulic power is now so familiar in its application, so all-powerful, yet so easily controlled, that I cannot but believe that sanitary engineers would quickly construct

water filters, on PASTEUR'S principle, of sufficient power and capacity to filter rapidly through porous stone or porcelain, any amount of water needed, and would do so at a far less cost than is now incurred in making the large and expensive open tanks, which are most unwisely, I had almost said most wickedly, placed in the vicinity of abodes of men, where every facility is given for the contamination of water by floating particles of living matter.

### SEWERS AND SEWER VENTILATION.

In the formation of the Sewers at Merthyr, care was taken to provide grids or openings for the escape of sewer gases, which were placed near the summits of the main and lateral sewers. They were to a certain small extent useful, but were far from being sufficient, as whenever a closet-pan or pipe, or a yard-drain trap was broken or displaced, there an outburst of sewer gases occurred. Their deleterious nature was continually demonstrated, for wherever a case of Enteric Fever, of Diphtheria, or of Erysipelas occurred, it was found that a broken trap, or pan, or pipe in the immediate vicinity allowed sewer gas to escape.

In such a locality as Merthyr is situated, where the hilly nature of the land is such that in a distance of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the centre of the town to the top of Dowlais, there is a rise of 700 feet ; in such a locality, the ventilation of any underground construction, such as a sewer, should be easily and perfectly effected. Yet this, as I have just said, was not done : and this was due to the fact that the ventilation of the sewers was not carried out on the same principle as that by which underground workings in Collieries is conducted. In this great coal producing district, the principle adopted is to provide a sufficient *intake* or *down cast* shaft for the introduction of a column of fresh air into the mine, and a sufficient *outlet* or *up cast* shaft for the out-put of all foul air. Thus establishing a constant current of fresh air throughout all the workings, which carries with it all the inflammable gases given off from the



coal-workings, *forward, upwards, and outwards*, into the up cast shaft, and thence to the open air.

It is thus and thus only that the collier is enabled to pursue his dangerous calling. If for an instant the outward progress of the column of fresh air is prevented, either by an airway being accidentally blocked up, or by a doorway to the heading being negligently left open, then the lives of crowds of working men are endangered.

Believing this to be the true principle which should be adopted for the ventilation of sewers, I have from time to time pressed upon the members of the Local Board the necessity of providing shafts at the summits of main and lateral sewers, for the discharge of foul air, at the same time providing means for the inlet of fresh air at the lowest point of the sewer to be ventilated. Recently three such shafts have been built, chimneys of some 30 feet high, at the summits of as many main sewers, inlets for fresh air being provided. The result has been (as Mr. PEARSON CRESSWELL, the Chief Surgeon of the Dowlais Works informs me) to cleanse the sewers from excess of gases: while the Surveyor of the Board is so satisfied with the effect produced, that upon his recommendation the Board have ordered the building of other stacks to relieve the sewage-gas pressure in other districts of the town.

Connected with this subject, I must ask your attention to three matters:—

1.—THE HOPPER CLOSET PAN.—You all know how generally this kind of pan is used in closets, and you are well aware how liable it is to get choked, and how difficult it is to cleanse it. Especially as in a large number of towns there is no provision of a flushing water cistern. At present no legal power is given to any sanitary authority to direct what kind of pan or cistern, shall be placed in these conveniences. It is to my mind a want which should be supplied by the enactment of a law giving sanitary authorities the power to make bye-laws to meet this want.

2.—CLOSET WATER CISTERNS. — The supply cistern to a closet is provided generally with a hollow ball valve, as the cistern fills the ball floats and closes the tap: as it is emptied the ball sinks, and the mouth of the tap remains uncovered. Whenever the water supply, usually constant, is turned off, and after the quantity of water in the cistern is used for flushing, the air in closets will rush into the open service pipe. Such was the case in Merthyr, in June, 1884: for some hours every night the water supply was turned off, and it was observed that the water drawn off from the house taps in the morning was "creaming," it contained a very large quantity of compressed air. Upon examination this air was shown to be impure: the source, foul air from the closet used after the water supply had been turned off. It is only necessary to mention this imperfection to induce both Surveyors of Local Boards, and manufacturers of these cisterns, to construct some means for preventing the access of foul air into water mains, in the mode described.

3.—SEWER VENTILATION.—Sanitary Engineers still construct sewers with shafts, communicating with openings on the surface of the thoroughfares for ventilation. And it is contended that the gases thence escaping into the air, in our lanes and streets are not injurious to health. How any man who has recognized the fact that diseases have been caused by inhaling sewer gases, can for a moment admit the truth of this assertion is to me incomprehensible. It is opposed to every fact which STUART, BUDD, MURCHISON and BUCHANAN have proclaimed: it is distinctly opposed by every demonstration announced by SCHWANN and PASTEUR, TYNDALL and LISTER, nay, it is opposed to our common sense. Can that be *harmless* which comes from an *accumulation* of decomposing faecal matter, which is admittedly *poisonous* when proceeding from a small local deposit? Assuredly not: therefore, as in your minds you are convinced of the danger attending this system, let your pens pourtray the evils of its construction, let your voices be raised against the continuance of so deadly a method, and let sewers henceforth be channels through which fresh air passes,

onwards, upwards, and outwards through properly constructed shafts or chimneys, placed at the summits of sewers, far from the habitations of men.

## INSPECTION.

Self-help has been the motto of the people of Merthyr: assiduous devotion to duty, the guiding motive of their elected representatives. But there have been gaps in the hedge, which should have been repaired, some lapses have occurred, some delays. These, alas! were the occasions of many fatalities. Yet there were Sanitary Laws enacted by the legislature, which had they been energetically utilized, might have prevented such lamentable results.

But there was no one to supervise, no one to direct. Zeal in any official is apt to be tired by continual postponements. Year after year, during my nearly twenty years service as a Health Officer, I have been more and more deeply impressed with the absolute necessity of regular supervision over the work of all Sanitary Authorities. The question constantly recurs "*Quis custodiet custodes*"?

I see the Inland Revenue of the country, supervised by well-instructed Surveyors, having authority over a defined area, and responsible to a central office. I see the work of Poor Law Relief carefully watched by gentlemen of great intelligence, who have attained to a thorough knowledge of the Laws made for the relief of the Poor and of the sick. I see the education in Primary and Advanced Schools, over-looked, and the results reported on, by Graduates and Fellows of our Universities. I see the worthy successors of those devoted men who, in times of anticipated trouble, enrolled themselves as *Volunteers*, becoming daily more and more efficient protectors of our sea-girt Isle, under the fostering instruction of officers of the First Battalion to which they are attached.

Yet in our branch of the medical profession, what have we? *Disjecta membra*. No line of work set out, each has to work alone, unsupported by advice, by instruction, without any one to back him. What wonder is it that those of us who take up Public Medicine, trusting to our reading, our common sense, our honesty of purpose, what wonder is it that we often "gang awry," that in adjoining districts advice diametrically opposite is given to perplexed Boards of Health.

I can feel that such an accusation as that we have no "consensus" of knowledge, would not hold against us, if we, as the Volunteers, had near us a *Medical Adjutant* officially trained; practically knowing the laws, passing from one authority to another, instructing authorities, advising officials, caring for the sick, as the Poor Law Inspector does; or taking notes in his visitations of the work done, the results produced, the benefits accomplished, as is done by the Inspector appointed by the Education Department.

I can imagine that Health Officers thus instructed, guided, supported, would by their concurrent action on a well-organized plan, produce results in the way of Sanitary Improvement as valuable as those which followed the labours of SIMON in London city, of GEORGE BUCHANAN in St. Giles, of WILSON in Warwickshire, GAIRDNER in Glasgow, and of DAVIES in Bristol.

England and Wales for the purposes of Registration, and for the Poor Law Relief, are divided into eleven districts. There are 15 lay members and 2 medical members on the Poor Law Staff of the Local Government Board. These gentlemen supervise the whole working of the Poor Law. They reside in or near the spheres of their labour, are connected with the central directing authority, are in constant communication with the Boards of Guardians, and thus the great and beneficent duties of administering to the wants of the aged poor, the attendance upon the sick, and the care of each Union in a district, are continuously maintained.

Let us turn now to the Medical Department of the same Board. The number of members including the Chief, and the



Assistant Medical Officers, is 13 ; recently four or five gentlemen have been appointed temporarily for a particular enquiry. The *special* duty assigned to each of the other eleven members is that of investigating the Vaccination Returns : each member, let it be specially noted, has a separate district, which is more or less co-terminous with the Poor Law and Registration District.

Apart from this special duty, the labours of the members are ambulatory, now enquiring into an outbreak of Diarrhœa in Wales, then hurrying to a fever district in Lancashire, off into Dorsetshire to finish his vaccination inspection, then hastily summoned to London ; always trot, trot, trotting from east to west, from north to south, the most unquiet of officials.

No one can question the exceeding great value of the enquiries made by the very able gentlemen forming the staff ; yet surely it will not be denied that, if definite authority with recognized responsibilities were assigned to each one of these gentlemen in some one division, or part of a registration division, that great public good would result. He would acquire a familiar knowledge of the causes of disease in various localities ; he would be enabled, authoritatively, to advise as to the best means of removing those causes ; he would direct, guide and support Health Officers in their difficult duties ; these and a crowd of other useful influences would follow if a Member of the Medical Staff of the Local Government Board were entrusted with the oversight, the regular inspection of every matter connected with the Life, Health, Disease and Death of the population of the district assigned to his especial care.

I am well aware that this matter has been brought before the public time after time, but there is a particular reason for now moving in this direction.

The first report of the Royal Commissioners for enquiring into the Housing of the Working Classes has been published. The Commissioners say that *public opinion* must be the *moving power*. Through this assembly I appeal to that public opinion to move

those who have the power, to take this *one step forward* in the path of progress and of orderly supervision. The step, if taken, would not be costly, as it would need merely a re-adjustment of duties, and certain changes of residence from Town to Country.

I feel convinced that if Sanitary Superintendents, having authority in well defined districts were appointed, that in a very few years such a clear elucidation of the removable causes of diseases would be obtained ; such definite means for their removal would be pointed out ; such a thorough organization of an efficient Sanitary service would be produced, that the working of the laws for the promotion of the Public Health would be thoroughly effective, and the benefit to the people immense.

In making this appeal to you, that this fancy of mine, long held and frequently proclaimed, may be realized, I will “rely upon that, without which all fancy sooner or later dies, upon that which once received into the heart is the basis of untiring faith, “ I will rely upon—Hope.”\*

T. J. DYKE.

24th June, 1885.

\* Lord Lytton.

\*

\*

\*

\*

\*

Those were the conditions prevailing before and during Doctor Dyke's time. I desire now to mention a few facts relating to the changes in population, industrial conditions, and also to bring to your notice, briefly, some of the advances which have taken place as a result of Public Health activities. Some of the information has been obtained from the "STORY OF MERTHYR TYDFIL," various Government publications, and the rest is abstracted from the body of the Report for 1944.

MERTHYR TYDFIL in 1759 was a mere hamlet with a population of 500, but during the next 150 years great changes took place. There was a rapid growth of industrialism accompanied by a corresponding increase in the population which reached its peak in 1913, when it was 85,414. During the 1914-1918 War there was a decrease in the population to 72,264, followed by a gradual rise from 1919-1924 to 83,440, and after that a gradual yearly decline. At the present time the population for mid-year 1944 is estimated, by the Registrar-General, to be 60,990.

These fluctuations in population were related to the state of employment in the area. From 1923 until 1935 Merthyr Tydfil was one of the hardest hit industrial areas; the young virile members left the area, whereas the older and unskilled people remained. There was in 1932 a total of 14,250 wholly-unemployed, but 5,000 of these were only temporarily affected. In 1935 there were 10,600 unemployed. But from 1939 when the war commenced and new factories were opened the situation improved yearly. In 1944, out of an insured population of 20,751, 600 only were registered as unemployed.

You will note from the following table that 5,139 were still employed in Coal Mining, but in the basic Iron and Steel Industries there was no one employed. General and Electrical Engineering Firms, however, employed approximately 5,000 people.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYMENT BOOKS  
EXCHANGED IN EACH OF THE MAIN INDUSTRIES CARRIED  
ON IN THE AREA OF THE LOCAL OFFICES SITUATED IN  
THE MERTHYR COUNTY BOROUGH.

Building and Decorating	...	...	...	...	309
Public Works Contracting, Mine and Well Sinking	...				279
General Engineering	...	...	...	...	2395
Electrical Engineering	...	...	...	...	2550
Construction and Repair of Motor Cars, Lorries	...				131
Woodworking, not separately specified	...	...	...		79
Explosives manufacture	...	...	...	...	131
Chemicals manufacture	...	...	...	...	461
Oils, Greases, Glue, Soap, Polishes manufacture	...				184
Miscellaneous Metal Goods manufacture	...	...	...		58
Artificial Stone and Concrete manufacture	...	...	...		48
Hotel, Boarding-house, Restaurant Service	...	...	...		110
Laundry Service	...	...	...	...	39
Railway Service	...	...	...	...	209
Tramway and Omnibus Service	...	...	...	...	163
Other Road Passenger Transport	...	...	...		67
Coal Mining	...	...	...	...	5139
Stone Quarrying and Mining	...	...	...	...	111
Hosiery Industry	...	...	...	...	408
Shirt, Collar, Overall, Underclothing making	...	...	...		104
Bread, Biscuit, Cake, etc. making	...	...	...		138
Drink Industries	...	...	...	...	61
Gas, Water and Electricity Supply Industries	...	...	...		215
Distributive Trades...	...	...	...	...	1681
National Government Service	...	...	...	...	263
Local Government Service	...	...	...	...	866
Professional Services	...	...	...	...	128
Entertainments, Sports, etc.	...	...	...	...	213
Farming and Forestry	...	...	...	...	143
Miscellaneous industries not separately specified	...				868

---

17,751

---



The facts mentioned are not strictly medical, but they have a definite relationship to human happiness and contentment of mind, and therefore come within the purview of Social Medicine. Apart from the treatment and nursing of Infectious Diseases, the work of the Medical Officer of Health, in Doctor Dyke's time, was concerned entirely with Preventive Medicine, but in 1929, consequent upon the Local Government Act which transferred Poor Law hospitals and institutions to County Boroughs and County Councils, the Medical Officer of Health undertook administrative duties in relation to Curative Medicine as well. It appears that his duty will, in future, be concerned with Social Medicine in its broadest sense.

I desire now to call your attention to a few of the facts contained in the body of the Report, and the first matter to which I refer you is the state of Infant Mortality.

The Infant Mortality Rate is defined as the number of deaths of children under one year per thousand births in that year. This rate has been considered one of the most delicate indices of the general sanitary conditions prevailing in the area: the rate always tends to be highest in those areas where there is gross overcrowding, bad housing and defective sanitation. If you turn to page 18 of the Report, you will note that as recently as 1905 the rate was 204 per thousand. As I have stated previously, this means that out of a thousand births taking place in 1905, 204 children died before they reached the age of twelve months. In the year 1944 the rate was 64. I have no knowledge of the rate in 1885, because it was not calculated in the same way. This spectacular drop in the Infantile Mortality Rate is not peculiar to Merthyr—it has taken place all over the country, and is due to an improvement in the housing conditions, the higher standard of general education, and the various Acts of Parliament concerned with general public health, as well as those Acts like the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, concerned more particularly with infant welfare and ante-natal care. The rate in Merthyr, however, is still too high, but will undoubtedly decline when the housing conditions are improved.

The next question which I wish you to consider is the Maternal Mortality Rate ; that is, the number of deaths of mothers in childbirth per thousand. There is no information in the older Reports regarding this matter, but in the year 1928 the rate was 9.7, which means, roughly, that 10 mothers out of every thousand who gave birth to children died in pregnancy or as a result of pregnancy. The rate in 1942 was less than 1.0 ; in 1944 it was 2.6. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs, and compares favourably with the rest of the country. The causes for this reduction in Maternal Mortality are better ante-natal supervision with consequent anticipation of obstetrical difficulties, greater facilities for institutional delivery, and the employment of Consultants.

A significant fact is that out of 1,086 births which took place in Merthyr in 1944, 823 had their confinements either at the Tydfil Lodge or at the Gwaunfarren Maternity Home. I am sure that our Mortality figures would not be as favourable if these facilities did not exist.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The days of Cholera, Typhus, and certain other infectious diseases, have gone, but we still have to deal with some killing diseases like Diphtheria. Excellent provision is available at the Mardy Isolation Hospital for the nursing of cases of infectious diseases, and we are responsible for nursing not only Merthyr patients but also patients from Aberdare Urban District Council, Vaynor and Penderyn Urban District Council, Brecon Borough, and several Rural Districts in the Breconshire area. If you turn to page 27, you will find a table giving the Case Mortality from Diphtheria from the year 1900 onwards, and as recently as 1921 you will observe that for every 100 cases of Diphtheria that occurred in the area, 20 died, whereas for the year 1944 the number of deaths was less than one per hundred. There are a number of reasons for the decline in mortality from Diphtheria. The parents, as a result of many years of propaganda, take their children to the doctor at an early stage in the disease. Secondly, thousands of

children have been immunised, and this has not only lowered the incidence but has modified the severity in those cases which contracted it. In addition, there has been an increase in our knowledge in respect of the treatment of this disease.

With regard to other infectious diseases, I am glad to report that of the twelve cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever admitted to the hospital during the year, there were no deaths. This is entirely due to the advance in medical knowledge. Some of these cases were treated with the sulphonamide group of drugs, and others with a combination of sulphonamides and penicillin. Ten years ago, if these cases had been admitted, it is extremely likely that 75 per cent. of them would have died.

I should also like to call your attention to another interesting fact in regard to Tuberculosis. The death rate per 1,000,000 from this disease for the years 1938-1944 is given in the table below in respect of the Welsh County Boroughs:—

# EXTRACT FROM TABLE "A."

## DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS FOR THE YEARS 1938-1944 (PER MILLION).

	PULMONARY							NON-PULMONARY							ALL FORMS						
	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
CARDIFF	856	885	778	913	800	788	669	135	146	159	177	123	120	121	991	1031	937	1090	923	908	790
MERTHYR TYDFIL...	707	715	695	761	712	579	508	160	98	113	93	81	66	181	867	813	808	854	793	645	689
NEWPORT	719	697	859	791	832	817	787	94	52	114	31	42	95	53	813	749	973	822	874	912	840
SWANSEA	646	707	671	982	662	708	565	149	93	115	167	165	110	210	795	800	786	1149	827	818	775

Merthyr Tydfil, as you see, has a death rate lower than all the County Boroughs in Wales.

Whilst on the subject of Tuberculosis, I would like to mention to the Council that the investigation of Tuberculosis incidence in school-children still proceeds. As you have noted from previous Reports, the examination of school-children by ordinary methods does not, in a number of instances, enable us to detect the presence of Tuberculosis ; but a simple skin test, plus an X-Ray photograph gives us the information we require. The use of tuberculin jelly for this purpose has been in existence for a number of years in hospitals where nurses are employed in Tuberculosis wards, and Dr. Jones-Davies, of Radnorshire, performed the same tests on school-children in his area some years ago. We have gone a stage further in Merthyr. Not only have we tuberculin-tested our school-children but we have X-Rayed all positive reactors and we were the first Authority in the whole of England and Wales to have all our school-children X-Rayed by the Miniature Mobile X-Ray Plant. This last investigation was carried out by the Welsh National Memorial Association.

There is another disease I would like especially to call your attention to, and that is Cancer. This disease accounts for 12% of the total deaths in Merthyr Tydfil at the present time, and the facilities existing for dealing with it are hopelessly inadequate. It has been the duty of County Councils and County Boroughs, under the Cancer Act, 1939, to be responsible for the diagnosis and treatment, but progress has been delayed as a result of the War. I am glad to report, however, that the County Councils and County Boroughs of South Wales have formed a Joint Committee recently for putting this Act into operation, and there is every prospect in the near future that rapid progress will be made.

These are some of the important points which I desire to call your attention to, and you will realise that very great progress has been made since the days of Doctor Dyke. More detailed information is contained in the body of the Report, which, I hope, will be of interest to you.



I think, before completing this preface, that I should pass some comments on the question of Regionalisation, which is bound to affect your Local Government and other Health activities.

Regionalisation is undoubtedly the best method of dealing with such problems as Cancer and Tuberculosis, but I am not at all certain that other Public Health and Local Government activities can be as effectively dealt with under this system. In a County Borough having all the necessary powers and with the centre of activities not far removed from the people, the Local Authority has, through its members and officers, an intimate knowledge of an individual's life, his social conditions, his economic conditions, the way he spends his leisure time, and they can deal with these problems in a much more friendly and personal way. It is a common experience to have people visiting one's office with their problems, troubles and complaints; and, if they are not satisfied, then the remedy exists at the next Health, Housing or Council Meeting, where the members raise the matter. This would be impossible if the centre of Local Government for Merthyr were located in Cardiff; and I know, from personal experience in an Urban District Council, that these difficulties have arisen.

To certain modifications of Local Government units there can be no objection, especially where the Local Government areas like Rural District Councils are contiguous with County Boroughs, but there are some people who are advocating, these days, the complete reorganisation of the system of Local Government, which may end in substituting Dictatorship instead of Democratic Government. These are matters, Ladies and Gentlemen, which are of the greatest importance to the citizens of the borough you represent. Merthyr, as you are aware, has a great Public Health, Educational and Local Government record, and its powers should be jealously guarded.

As far back as 1837 Merthyr Tydfil applied for a Charter of Incorporation, but the movement became abortive. A second attempt was made in 1857, and, according to "THE STORY OF MERTHYR TYDFIL," "one or two meetings of rather a turbulent

character were held in the Temperance Hall, but nothing further was done." A further attempt was made in 1874, but, owing to the opposition of the coal and iron masters, this also failed. After several other attempts, Merthyr was successful in 1903, became a Municipal Borough in 1905 and a County Borough in 1908.

In 1944 we are still a County Borough, having passed through the greatest trials and tribulations; and in spite of these misfortunes, we can still justify our existence, as such, in the realms of Public Health, Education and Local Government. Sufficient evidence of this is available in your Report for the year 1944 from the point of view of Public Health.

Dr. Dyke ended his Report stating that he relied upon "Hope." I conclude this Report for 1944 relying on the first of the three virtues mentioned by St. Paul—"FAITH."

**MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH.**

Birth Rate for 1944 .....	17.8
Average Birth Rate for ten previous years.....	15.5
Crude Death Rate from all causes for 1944.....	14.8
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for 1944 .....	.5
Death Rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for 1944.....	.18
Infantile Mortality Rate for 1944 per thousand births.....	64

**BIRTHS—1944.**

Net number of Births registered ... .. 1086

The illegitimate births are as follows :—

				Total Births.
Males	...	...	...	27
Females	...	...	...	12

**STILL-BIRTHS.**

The Registrar General has supplied the following tables :—

				Still-births Registered
Males	...	...	...	29
Females	...	...	...	22

**ILLEGITIMATES.**

				Still-births Registered
Males	...	...	...	1
Females	...	...	...	4

Still-births registered allocated to the Borough: Nil.



**DEATHS—1944.**

Number of Deaths, 1944	...	...	...	...	...	905
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

The number of deaths registered in Merthyr during the year 1944 was 1,058; but with the addition of 37 deaths of Merthyr residents occurring outside the area and the exclusion of 190 deaths of non-residents within the area, the total number of deaths for Merthyr Tydfil was 905.

Of the 190 deaths of non-residents, 132 occurred in Tydfil Lodge, 13 in the General Hospital, 19 in the Mardy Hospital, 5 in Pontsarn Sanatorium, 20 at St. Mary's Annexe, 1 at Gwaun-farren House.

Of the 37 residents who died outside the Borough, 1 occurred at Christie Hospital, Withington; 1 at Maindiff Court Hospital, Llantilio; 1 at Tredegar; 4 at Royal Infirmary; 1 at Penybont; 6 at Cefn Coed; 1 at Cottage Hospital, Chun; 3 at St. Winifred's Hospital; 1 at Glyncastle Colliery, Resolven; 1 at Emergency Hospital, Whitchurch; 1 at Morriston Emergency Hospital; 1 at Hammersmith Hospital; 1 at Burden Neurological Institute, Stoke Gifford; 1 at Abertillery; 1 at Lord Ninian Hospital; 2 at Parc Gwyllt, Coity, Penybont; 1 at Porthcawl; 1 at Aberpergwm Colliery, Glynneath; 1 at Hensol Castle, Penddylan; 1 at Gorseinion; 1 at Gloucester; 1 at Royal Salop Infirmary; 1 at Abercynon Colliery; 1 at Bridgend; 1 at Tower Colliery, Rhigos; 1 at Perthygwenyn, New Quay,

The deaths were distributed in the Wards as follows. The percentage death rate of total deaths is :

			Deaths		Population		Percentage
Dowlais	...	...	109	...	9061	...	12.04
Penydarren	...	...	184	...	10143	...	20.33
Park	...	...	121	...	7089	...	13.3
Cyfarthfa	...	...	91	...	6139	...	10.1
Town	...	...	124	...	9195	...	13.7
Plymouth	...	...	107	...	7771	...	11.8
Merthyr Vale	...	...	87	...	5934	...	9.6
Treharris	...	...	82	...	7440	...	9.1

No great significance can be attached to the above, because the age and sex distribution in the respective Wards has not been taken into consideration.

I have examined the total number of deaths, their age and sex distribution, and their causes, and I think you should be aware of certain facts relating to the major killing diseases.

### HEART DISEASE.

			Total.
Males	...	...	120
Females	...	...	95

The deaths recorded in the age and sex groups are as follows :—

	0—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	65 upw'ds
M.	—	—	7	46	67
F.	—	1	9	24	61

Heart disease, therefore, was responsible for 23.7% of the total causes of death.

**CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.**

			Total.
Males	...	...	55
Females	...	...	56

The deaths recorded in the age and sex groups are as follows :—

	0—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	65 upw'ds
M.	—	1	4	24	26
F.	—	1	7	23	25

Cancer and Malignant Disease, therefore, was responsible for 12.2% of the total causes of death.

**TUBERCULOSIS (Pulmonary and other forms).**

			Total.
Males	...	...	27
Females	...	...	15

The deaths recorded in the age and sex groups are as follows :—

	0—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	65 upw'ds
M.	2	—	14	11	—
F.	1	1	9	4	—

Tuberculosis, therefore, was responsible for 4.64% of the total causes of death,

### CONGENITAL DEBILITY, PREMATURE BIRTH, AND MALFORMATION.

			Total.
Males	...	...	16
Females	...	...	17

Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and Malformation, therefore, was responsible for 3.6% of the total causes of death.

### BRONCHITIS.

Males	...	...	...	32
Females	...	...	...	31

The deaths recorded in the age and sex groups are as follows :—

	0—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	65 upw'ds
M.	2	—	1	14	15
F.	4	—	—	3	24

Bronchitis, therefore, was responsible for 6.9% of the total causes of death

### PNEUMONIA.

			Total.
Males	...	...	24
Females	...	...	13

The deaths recorded in the age and sex groups are as follows :—

	0—5	5—15	15—45	45—65	65 upw'ds
M.	8	—	5	7	4
F.	3	—	6	1	3

Pneumonia, therefore, was responsible for 4% of the total causes of death.

**DEATHS AT CERTAIN AGE PERIODS.**

			No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Total Deaths.		
0-1	...	...	70	...	...	7.7
1-5	...	...	15	...	...	1.6
5-15	...	...	23	...	...	2.5
15-45	...	...	101	...	...	11.1
45-65	...	...	262	...	...	28.9
65 upwards	...	...	434	...	...	47.9

It will be observed that the percentage of the total deaths occurring under 45 years of age is 22.9, and over 45 is 76.8.

**FATAL ACCIDENTS.**

The following were the fatal accidents and suicides recorded during the year :—

Drowning, 4 ; Falling down steps, 2 ; Run over by engine, 3 ; Fracture of skull, 1 ; Self-inflicted wounds, 3 ; Scalding, 5 ; Shock, 2 ; Run over by taxi-car, 1 ; Riding cycle, 1 ; Poisoning, 3 ; Burns, 2 ; Hanging, 1 ; Fall of roof, 4 ; Colliding with cart, 1 ; Suffocation, 1.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**

The number of deaths under 1 during the year was 70, which is 3 more than last year, and gives a rate of 64.46 per 1,000 births.

Of the deaths 66 were of legitimate infants, equivalent to a rate of 63.03 per 1,000 legitimate births, while 4 were illegitimate infants, equivalent to a rate of 102.6 per 1000 illegitimate births. For England and Wales the Infantile Mortality Rate was 46 per 1,000, and for the Boroughs and Great Towns it was 52 per 1,000 births.

Of the 70 deaths 14 occurred under 1 week, 14 occurred under 1 month, 13 1-3 months, 17 3-6 months and 12 6-12 months.

The number of deaths occurring in the first month of life was 28—14 of which occurred under 1 week. Of the 14, 5 were due to Premature Birth, 1 to Morbus Cordus, 1 to Spina Bifida, 3 to Atelectasis Pulmonum, 1 to Pyloric Atresia, 1 to Mehectasis Pulmonum, 1 to Congenital Debility, 1 to Asphyxia Neonatorum.

The number of deaths occurring between 4 weeks and under 3 months was 13, 3 were due to Gastro Enteritis, 1 to Marasmus, 1 to Suffocation, 3 to Bronco Pneumonia, 1 to Spina Bifida, 2 to Bronchitis, 1 to Congenital Heart Disease, 1 to Influenza.

Between 3 months and 6 months 17 deaths occurred, 4 to Bronchial Pneumonia, 5 to Gastro Enteritis, 1 to Convulsions, 2 to Bronchitis, 1 to Meningitis, 1 to Congenital Lues, 2 to Premtture Birth, 1 to Dentition.

The Ward distribution as shewn in Table IVA. was as follows :—

Dowlais ...	...	12	Town ...	...	8
Penydarren ...	...	15	Plymouth ...	...	6
Park ...	...	6	Merthyr Vale ...	...	11
Cyfarthfa ...	...	8	Treharris...	...	4

#### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE FROM THE YEAR 1900 TO 1944.

1900	...	No Return	1913	...	...	126
1901	...	261	1914	...	...	119
1902	...	No Return	1915	...	...	157
1903	...	153	1916	...	No Return	
1904	...	No Return	1917	...	No Return	
1905	...	204	1918	...	No Return	
1906	...	179	1919	...	...	91
1907	...	154	1920	...	...	84
1908	...	176	1921	...	...	90
1909	...	142	1922	...	...	102
1910	...	137	1923	...	...	86
1911	...	153	1924	...	...	80
1912	...	128	1925	...	...	99



### INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE—*Continued.*

1926	...	...	83	1936	...	...	79
1927	...	...	103	1937	...	...	79
1928	...	...	93	1938	...	...	77
1929	...	...	107	1939	...	...	86
1930	...	...	91	1940	...	...	58
1931	...	...	105	1941	...	...	80
1932	...	...	73	1942	...	...	80.03
1933	...	...	89.7	1943	...	...	63
1934	...	...	74	1944	...	...	64
1935	...	...	74				

Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales 46

Infantile Mortality Rate for the 126 County  
Boroughs and Great Towns ... 52

### INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

- (a) Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council: Nos. 3 and 4, Glebeland Street, Merthyr Tydfil; Plough School, Gellifaelog, Dowlais; Church Hall, Troed-y-rhiw; Bethel Hall, Treharris.
- (b) Total number of children who attended at the Centres for the first time during the year, and who, on the date of their first attendance, were—
- |  |     |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 936 |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 352 |
- (c) Total number of children who attended the Centres during the year, and who, at the end of the year, were—
- |                                       |     |     |     |     |       |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (i) Under 1 year of age               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 909   |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 to 5 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,071 |

### TODDLERS' CLINIC.

A Clinic for toddlers is held once fortnightly for children from 2 to 5 years of age, excepting those who are in attendance at Elementary Schools.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

---

### MIDWIVES ACT, 1936.

The total number of cases attended by the Midwives to the 31st of December, 1944 was 545. The average number of cases per Midwife was 50. This number is small, but regard must be had to the peculiar configuration of the Borough and the fact that no Midwife is supplied with a car, and, consequently, long distances have to be undertaken on foot.

The total amount of fees received from 31st December, 1944, in respect of attendances of Midwives as Midwives or Maternity Nurses was £546 14s. 6d.

Each Midwife has to have a telephone installed in her house at the cost of the Local Authority, and an allowance of approximately five guineas a year is granted towards the cost of such. This allowance varies slightly, depending upon the distances that the Midwife has to telephone to the Supervisor. No arrangements were made with any Nursing Associations; the domiciliary service is given entirely by the Local Authority.

The fees charged to individuals for attention as Midwives or Maternity Nurses is as follows, and remission of fee takes place where the income falls below the undermentioned scale:—

Net Weekly Parental Income per head (after deducting Rent and including newly-born infant).					Amount of Fee Recoverable.
Under 10s.	...	...	...	...	Nil.
10s. up to 12s. 6d.	...	...	...	...	10s.
12s. 6d. up to 15s.	...	...	...	...	20s.
15s. and over	...	...	...	...	30s.

Subject to—

- (a) Maternity Benefit not being claimed ; but that in the event of two benefits being received, one benefit shall be claimed from, and payable by, the patient.
- (b) Special consideration shall be given by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee in cases where exceptional expenditure is incurred by the parent, *e.g.*, train or bus fares to and from work.

The scheme is working quite satisfactorily, but there does not appear to be inaugurated any satisfactory scheme for Refresher Courses in South Wales.

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Number of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ... 6

Number of deaths from Puerperal Sepsis... —

Number of deaths from other Puerperal  
Diseases ... .. 3

The Puerperal Pyrexia notifications per 1,000 total births, live and still, for England and Wales, was 10.34 ; for Merthyr, 5.27.

The six cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were removed to Hospital.

### BOARDING-OUT OF CHILDREN.

The Boarding-out Committee meet once monthly, and the Health Visitors report as to the condition of the home and the children whom they visit several times each month. On the 31st December, 1944, there were 5 children boarded-out.

The functions of the Public Assistance Committee in so far as they relate to the education and maintenance of poor children apart from their parents are carried out by the Education and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees, subject to the general directions of the Public Assistance Committee.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Total number of deaths during the year...	...	3
Death rate per thousand live births	...	2.7
Death rate per thousand total births	...	2.63
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, rate per thousand total births	... ..	—

# MATERNAL MORTALITY.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
(a) Total Number	5	7	8	4	2	7	1	4	6	3	2	4	1	3	3
(b) From Sepsis	2	3	2	2	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
(c) From other causes	3	4	6	2	1	5	—	4	5	3	2	2	1	1	3
(d) From associated causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
(e) Rate per 1,000 births	L.B. 4.17	6.1	7.69	3.9	1.9	6.88	1.08	4.4	6.3	3.3	1.99	3.69	.9	2.8	2.7
T.B.	3.9	5.69	7.13	.62	1.8	6.4	1.02	4.2	5.9	3.1	1.9	3.53	.9	2.7	2.63

As stated in previous Reports, a large number of women enter the Infirmary or Gwaunfarren Maternity Home for their confinements, and during the year 1944, 823 women took advantage of these facilities. There is no doubt in my mind that, with the housing conditions as they are at present and the slow progress we are making to remedy the existing conditions, admission to hospital is an absolute necessity in a large number of cases.

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Number of cases notified ... .. 1

Rate per thousand births ... .. .92

The following are particulars of the case :—

Cases			Vision un- impaired	Vision impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths	Rem'ed from District
No. notified	Treated						
	At Home	In Hospital					
1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—

### INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The number of foster parents registered during  
the year 1944 was ... .. 3

The number of children registered was ... 3

3 cases were placed on the register during the year 1944, and in no instances were legal proceedings necessary in respect of the infringement of the Act during the year. Nursing and maintenance were found to be satisfactory. There are at present 3 foster parents and 3 children registered.



# Infectious Diseases.

## SCARLET FEVER.

Number of cases for the year 1944	...	...	...	83
Number of deaths	...	...	...	—

## Notifications.

The age and Ward distribution was as follows :—

AGE.			WARD.		
Under 1	...	—	Dowlais...	...	8
1-5	...	19	Penydarren	...	18
5-15	...	60	Park	...	7
15-25	...	4	Cyfarthfa	...	—
25-45	...	—	Town	...	7
45-65	...	—	Plymouth	...	4
65 and			Merthyr Vale	...	5
upwards	...	—	Treharris	...	34

Of the 83 notified, 28 were removed to hospital, and the remainder were nursed at home. The disease continues to be mild in type.

**DIPHTHERIA.**

The number of cases of Diphtheria was	...	...	...	218
Number of deaths	...	...	...	8
Mortality Rate	...	...	...	.8

During 1944 the total number of cases of Diphtheria notified was 218, as compared with 221 for the year 1942, and 258 for the year 1943.

The age and Ward distribution are given in the following table :—

AGE.			WARD.		
Under 1	...	—	Dowlais...	...	50
1-5	...	32	Penydarren	...	62
5-15	...	132	Park	...	24
15-25	...	39	Cyfarthfa	...	18
25-45	...	14	Town	...	23
45-65	...	1	Plymouth	...	14
65 and			Merthyr Vale	...	13
upwards	...	—	Treharris	...	14

The number of deaths certified as being due to Diphtheria was 8, as compared with 14 for the year 1941, 4 for 1942, 9 for 1943,

As stated in a previous Report, an immunisation campaign was commenced on the 12th of September, 1934.

Number of children completely immunised  
up to and including 31st December, 1944      12,211

An analysis of the age distribution of the notified cases shows that 14.72% were under 5 years of age; 60.5% 5-15; 17.9% 15-25; 6.42% 25-45; .46% 45-65.

The case mortality for diphtheria from 1900 is as follows :—

1900	...	...	22.04	1923	...	...	9.09
1901	...	...	21.8	1924	...	...	6.52
1902	...	No Return		1925	...	...	9.67
1903	...	...	22.72	1926	...	...	9.52
1904	...	No Return		1927	...	...	13.26
1905	...	...	16.66	1928	...	...	7.95
1906	...	...	25.83	1929	...	...	13.13
1907	...	...	25.00	1930	...	...	10.50
1908	...	...	11.25	1931	...	...	10.31
1909	...	...	29.77	1932	...	...	3.63
1910	...	...	9.52	1933	...	...	8.23
1911	...	...	15.91	1934	...	...	8.3
1912	...	...	25.00	1935	...	...	8.3
1913	...	...	23.09	1936	...	...	8.6
1914	...	...	17.02	1937	...	...	4.9
1915	...	...	13.72	1938	...	...	3.9
1916	...	No Return		1939	...	...	3.5
1917	...	No Return		1940	...	...	6.4
1918	...	No Return		1941	...	...	5.8
1919	...	...	3.92	1942	...	...	1.8
1920	...	...	16.05	1943	...	...	1.0
1921	...	...	20.17	1944	...	...	.88
1922	...	...	12.98				

The following is the average for 10-yearly periods from 1900 to 1944, viz. :—

1900-1911	...	...	...	20.05
1912-1924	...	...	...	14.75
1925-1934	...	...	...	9.45
1935-1944	...	...	...	4.5

### CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Twelve cases of Cerebro-spinal Fever were notified during the year. There were no deaths during the year.

### ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS AND ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

No cases were notified during the year.

### DIARRHOEA.

Diarrhoea was certified as the cause of thirteen deaths during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

The total deaths from Tuberculosis during the year was 42.

### NOTIFICATIONS.

Total number of Notifications	...	...	197	
Pulmonary	...	Males	...	92
		Females	...	85
Non-Pulmonary	...	Males	...	6
		Females	...	14

## NOTIFICATION RATES :

Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	1.51
		Females	...	...	1.39
Non Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	.09
		Females	...	...	.22

## DEATHS.

Total number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	42
Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	19
		Females	...	...	12
Non-Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	8
		Females	...	...	3

## DEATH RATES :

Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	.31
		Females	...	...	.19
Non-Pulmonary	...	Males	...	...	.13
		Females	...	...	.05

Total Death Rate (all forms) ... .. .68

The age distribution is given in the sub-joined table :

Age Periods	Deaths				Notifications			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—5	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	1
5—15	—	—	—	1	5	6	1	6
15—45	10	8	4	1	65	70	5	5
45—65	9	4	2	—	18	6	—	1
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
TOTALS	19	12	8	3	92	85	6	14
	42				197			

The Ward distribution of the Notifications were as follows :—

Dowlais	...	23	Town	...	...	24
Penydarren	...	29	Plymouth	...	...	22
Park	...	...	38	Merthyr Vale	...	19
Cyfarthfa	...	27	Treharris	...	...	15

The Ward distribution of the deaths was as follows :—

Dowlais	...	11	Town	...	...	5
Penydarren	...	9	Plymouth	...	...	3
Park	...	...	7	Merthyr Vale	...	3
Cyfarthfa	...	4	Treharris	...	...	—

One-Hundred-and-Four cases were admitted to Hospitals or Sanatoria during the year.

Of the 42 deaths, 25 occurred at home, 17 at institutions.

No action was taken under Section 2 of the Public Health Act, 1925, which empowers the compulsory removal of a patient suffering from Tuberculosis who is in an infectious state and is without proper accommodation.

The sub-joined table (page 31) gives the returns of the work of the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

### MEASLES.

Number of cases which came to the knowledge of the Department during the year and were visited by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	—



RETURN SHOWING THE WORK OF THE DISPENSARY (OR DISPENSARIES) DURING  
THE YEAR 1944.

DIAGNOSIS	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A—DEFINITE CASES of Tuberculosis on Register at beginning of year ...	165	115	17	18	30	31	18	29	193	146	35	47	421
B—NUMBER OF NEW CASES diagnosed as tuberculous during year ...	58	65	8	14	5	6	1	2	63	71	9	16	159
C—NUMBER OF CASES included in A and B written off the Dispensary Register during the year as—	223	180	25	32	35	37	19	31	256	217	44	63	580
(1) Recovered ... ..	1	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	2	6
(2) Dead (all causes) ... ..	17	10	—	1	2	2	1	1	19	12	1	2	34
(3) Removed ... ..	2	5	—	1	1	—	—	1	3	5	—	2	10
(4) For other reasons... ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
D—NUMBER OF DEFINITE CASES of tuberculosis on the Dispensary Register at the end of year ...	201	163	25	29	32	33	17	28	233	196	42	57	528
Add transfers from other areas and cases "lost sight of" returning...	9	12	2	3	2	—	—	1	11	12	2	4	29
	210	175	27	32	34	33	17	29	244	208	44	61	557



**WHOOPIG - COUGH.**

Number of deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	—
Number of cases which came to the knowledge of the Department and were visited by Health Visitors	...		109
Whooping Cough was responsible for none of the total causes of death.			

**PNEUMONIA.**

Number of Notifications received during the year	...		27
Number of Deaths	...	...	37
Pneumonia Mortality Rate	...	...	4.08

**SMALL - POX.**

No case of Small Pox was notified during the year.

**VENEREAL DISEASES.**

The facilities for diagnosis and treatment for the above condition are in the Mardy Hospital Grounds.

The Clinics are available at 3 p.m. for females on Tuesdays and for males on Thursdays at 5 p.m. The Irrigation Room is open daily (except Sundays) at 12 noon and 5 p.m.

On January 1st, 1944, 19 males and 15 females were under treatment, and during the year 59 males and 30 females came under treatment for the first time. The number of cases which ceased to attend before the completion of treatment was 5 males and 4 females. One male was transferred to other centres for treatment.

The number of cases remaining under treatment on the 31st December, 1944, was 25 males and 15 females,

The number of attendances—

- (a) For individual attention of the Medical Officer was 1,135 males and 610 females.
- (b) For intermediate treatment, *e.g.*, irrigation, was 1,639 males and 500 females.
- (c) The number of cases of congenital syphilis was two.

A number attending the Clinic were from Glamorgan, Monmouthshire and Breconshire.

#### Attendances at V.D. Clinic 1927—1944.

<i>Year.</i>		<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
1927	...	3862	...	776	...	4638
1928	...	3915	...	1651	...	5566
1929	...	4424	...	1843	...	6267
1930	...	4109	...	1648	...	5757
1931	...	3653	...	1685	...	5338
1932	...	4219	...	1620	...	5839
1933	...	4361	...	1905	...	6266
1934	...	6120	...	1458	...	7578
1935	...	6887	...	1928	...	8815
1936	...	5981	...	1697	...	7678
1937	...	6564	...	1689	...	8253
1938	...	6018	...	1321	...	7339
1939	...	5802	...	995	...	6797
1940	...	4129	...	1070	...	5199
1941	...	2346	...	1459	...	3805
1942	...	2234	...	1851	...	4085
1943	...	1946	...	1699	...	3645
1944	...	2744	...	1110	...	3844

#### ERYSIPELAS.

Number of Notifications received during the year	...	10
Number of Deaths	... ..	—

The total number of notifications of persons suffering from Erysipelas received during the year 1944 was 10, as compared with 15 in the previous year.

### CHICKEN - POX.

Chicken-pox was not notifiable during the year, and we have no knowledge of the number of cases that occurred.

### BRONCHITIS.

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	63
Bronchitis Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.9

Fifty-Nine of the deaths occurred from the age of 56 on :—  
29 males and 27 females.

### DYSENTERY (MALARIA AND ANTHRAX).

No case of the above diseases occurred during the year.

### ORTHOPAEDIC CASES OF CHILDREN NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL.

The following is the table of work done during the year :—  
MERTHYR CENTRE :

Number of cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Number of sunlight cases...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
Number of massage and exercise treatments given	...	...	...	...	...	...	268
Number of ultra-violet ray treatments...	...	...	...	...	...	...	621
Number of plaster of Paris cases	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	14

## DOWLAIS CENTRE :

Number of cases	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number of sunlight cases...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of massage and exercise treatments given	...	...	...	...	...	102
Number of plaster of Paris cases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of ultra-violet ray cases	...	...	...	...	...	82

## Treharris Centre :

Number of cases	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of massage and exercise treatments given	...	...	...	...	...	48
Number of plasters...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	2

**CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.**

Cancer and Malignant Disease was given as the cause of death in 111 cases. It was responsible for 12.2% of the total deaths, as compared with 12.1% last year.

Facilities for diagnosis of Cancer in the area were discussed last year. Since then there has been a meeting of Local Authorities at Cardiff to discuss the question of a Radio Therapeutic Centre.



## Public Assistance Administration.

---

The Medical Officer of Health attends all Public Assistance Committees and all the Institution Committees, and is responsible for advising the Council on all matters in relation to the public health.

There is a full-time District Medical Officer for the Dowlais and Penydarren area, but in all other areas of the Borough part-time District Medical Officers are employed.

As I have stated, this is an ordinary Report, and the details of the number of cases attended by the various doctors are not being published in this Report.

There are five part-time consultants on the staff—Professor Strachan, Dr. Robert Owen, Mr. A. O. Parker, Dr. Ivor Davies, Mr. Berry Haycraft.

As stated in previous Annual Reports, considerable use has been made of in-patient treatment for expectant mothers. The services of an obstetric consultant have been used freely by the Public Assistance Committee and the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Appended are the classifications of in-patients who were discharged from or who died in the Institution during the year, and a classification of the accommodation for the sick and the number of beds occupied on 31st December, 1944. These tables apply only to the "hospital" side of the Institution :—

## TYDFIL LODGE.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE SICK AND THE NUMBER OF BEDS  
OCCUPIED ON 29TH DECEMBER, 1944.

Classification of Wards	Number of Wards	BEDS			
		Men Provided	Women Provided	Children Provided	TOTALS Provided
Medical ... ..	8	67	67	—	134
Surgical ... ..	4	18	14	—	32
Chronic Sick ... ..	8	64	61	—	125
Children ... ..	2	—	—	62	62
Venereal Diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis... ..	2	4	2	—	6
Maternity ... ..	2	—	12	—	12
Mental Disease ... ..	2	4	6	—	10
Isolation ... ..	4	2	2	—	4
TOTALS ... ..	32	159	164	62	385

Total Males 159. Females 167. Children 62.

Total 385 beds. Ordinary beds 331.

These additional cases were housed in extra beds put up temporarily.

**IN-PATIENTS.**

STATISTICS AS AT QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1944  
(exclusive of casualties due to enemy action, A.R.P. volunteers injured in the course of their duty and Service sick).

1. Total number of admissions (including born in Hospital) ... ..	518
2. Total number of deaths ... ..	73
3. Total number of discharges (including born in Hospital) ... ..	455
4. Duration and stay of patients included in 2 and 3 above :—	
(a) Under four weeks ... ..	388
(b) Four weeks and under thirteen weeks ...	96
(c) Thirteen weeks or more ... ..	44
5. Number of surgical operations under general anæsthetic (excluding dental operations) ... ..	28

**MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1927.**

1. During the year 1944 one petition was presented for order under the Mental Deficiency Acts.

2. One case was placed under guardianship, and no case discharged from guardianship.

3. SUMMARY OF DEFECTIVES REMAINING UNDER CARE.—The following is a summary of mental defectives remaining under care, for whom the Local Authority is responsible :—

		Male		Female		Total
In Institutions	{	Under 16 yrs.	2 ...	1 ...		3
		Aged 16 years				
		and over ...	9 ...	10 ...		19

# General Provision of Health Services in the Borough.

## MARDY HOSPITAL.

On January 1st, 1944, 71 patients remained in hospital, viz., Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 41; Tuberculosis, 29. During the year 522 patients were admitted, viz., Scarlet Fever, 29; Diphtheria, 404; Tuberculosis, 72; Measles, 5; Typhoid, 2; C.S.M., 8; C.S.F. 2.

### SCARLET FEVER :

Twenty-nine cases were admitted and 26 were discharged during the year. The disease was of a mild type, and there were no deaths. The cases admitted into hospital were those from the home where there was an expectant mother or where there were a large number of children, necessitating the exclusion of contacts and consequent loss of much school time.

Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944	...	...	1
---	-----	-----	---

Number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945	...	...	...	4
---	-----	-----	-----	---

### DIPHTHERIA :

Four-hundred-and-four cases were admitted and 393 discharged during the year. There were 8 deaths. No positive case was kept in for less a period than five weeks, and in severe cases up to three months.

Number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944...	...	...	41
--	-----	-----	----

Number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945...	...	...	44
--	-----	-----	----

#### MEASLES—BRONCHO-PNEUMONIA.

Number of patients admitted during 1944	...	...	5
---	-----	-----	---

Number of patients discharged during 1944	...	...	5
---	-----	-----	---

Number of deaths during 1944	...	...	Nil
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

Number of patients still in hospital, January, 1945...			Nil
--	--	--	-----

#### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS :

Seventy-two patients were admitted and 65 discharged during the year. There were 11 deaths during the year.

Number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944...	...	...	29
--	-----	-----	----

Number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945...	...	..	25
--	-----	----	----

#### MALE. FEMALE.

Borough Cases	...	...	—	2
---------------	-----	-----	---	---

Outside Borough Cases	...	22	48
-----------------------	-----	----	----

#### TYPHOID CASES :

Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	2
---	-----	---

Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	2
---	-----	---

Total number of deaths during 1944	...	Nil
------------------------------------	-----	-----

Number of Patients still in Hospital on January 1st, 1945	...	...	Nil
--	-----	-----	-----

#### MENINGITIS :

Number of patients admitted during 1944	...	8
---	-----	---

Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	4
---	-----	---

Total number of deaths during 1944	...	4
------------------------------------	-----	---

Number of Patients still in Hospital on January 1st, 1945	...	Nil
--	-----	-----

PARTICULARS OF CASES admitted and discharged at Mardy Hospital—outside areas :—

### ABERDARE.

#### DIPHTHERIA :

Total number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944	...	...	1
Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	...	19
Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	...	17
Total number of deaths during 1944	...	...	1
Total number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945	...	...	2

### BRECON.

#### DIPHTHERIA :

Total number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944	...	...	1
Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	...	12
Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	...	12
Total number of deaths during 1944	...	...	Nil
Total number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945	...	...	1

### ABERDARE.

#### SCARLET FEVER :

Total number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944	...	...	1
Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	...	14
Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	...	14
Total number of deaths during 1944	...	...	Nil
Total number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945	...	...	5



**BRECON.****SCARLET FEVER :**

Total number of patients admitted during 1943 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1944	...	...	5
Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	...	17
Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	...	15
Total number of deaths during 1944	...	...	Nil
Total number of patients admitted during 1944 and still in hospital on 1st January, 1945	...	...	7

**ABERDARE.****TYPHOID CASES :**

Total number of patients admitted during 1944	...	2
Total number of patients discharged during 1944	...	1
Total deaths during 1944...	...	1

**OTHER HOSPITALS IN THE BOROUGH.****THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.**

This Hospital has 115 beds, and includes a children's ward. An addition to the Hospital has been opened, and comprises room for eye and ear, nose and throat departments, an X-Ray department, and a children's ward.

**TYDFIL LODGE (FORMERLY THE UNION INFIRMARY).**

The accommodation for the sick is 337 beds, and includes hospital accommodation for the Borough and the parts of the Counties of Glamorgan and Brecon that were formerly comprised in the Merthyr Union.

### PONTSARN SANATORIUM.

The Ponsarn Sanatorium is the property of the Welsh National Memorial Association, and has 38 beds for tuberculosis patients.

---

### TUBERCULOSIS INSTITUTE.

This building is the property of the Welsh National Memorial Association, and is situate in Church Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

---

There is no institutional accommodation in the Borough for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children.

---

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council possesses a motor ambulance for the transport of infectious cases, and also one for accidents, etc. The Public Assistance Committee possess two motor ambulances, as do also several of the colliery companies.

---

### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL. There are two Queen's Nurses in the Town District of the Borough, and two Queen's Nurses at Dowlais.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The Health Visitors visit cases of measles, whooping-cough, puerperal fever, epidemic diarrhoea and ophthalmia neonatorum in their own homes. The Welsh National Memorial Association provides one nurse for out-patients suffering from tuberculosis.

# VACCINATION.

<i>Registration Sub-Districts</i>	<i>No. of Births</i>	<i>Suc- cess- fully vaccin- ated</i>	<i>Insus- cept- ible</i>	<i>Had Small Pox</i>	<i>No. of con- scien- tious objection declara- tions</i>	<i>Died Un- vaccin- ated</i>	<i>Post- pone- ment by Medical Certifi- cate</i>	<i>Removal to Districts duly apprised</i>	<i>Removal to places un- known</i>	<i>No. of these Births Jan. 31st 1944, neither entered nor tem- porarily accounted for</i>	<i>Total No. of Certificates and copies of successful primary vaccination of children under 14 during Calendar Year 1944</i>	<i>No. of Statutory Declara- tions of con- scien- tious objection actually received by the Vac- cination Officer during Calendar Year 1944</i>
1. Merthyr Tydfil Upper ...	1120	354	1	—	462	75	21	86	93	28	186	354
2. Merthyr Tydfil Lower ...	309	84	—	—	140	19	6	20	32	8	69	105
TOTAL ...	1429	438	1	—	602	94	27	106	125	36	255	459

## WATER SUPPLY.

Three samples of water for bacteriological analysis were taken during the year.

## CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The total number of specimens submitted for the year 1944 were as follows :—

Examinations of pathological specimens	...	2217
Examinations of milk	... ..	17

## LABORATORY WORK.

Mr. Rhys Charles acts as Public Analyst for the Borough.

Dr. V. D. Allison, of Cardiff, however, is pathologist under the Venereal Diseases Scheme, and during the year the following examinations were carried out :—

### FOR DETECTION OF GONOCOCCI :

For Treatment Centre	... ..	89
For Practitioners	... ..	23
For Hospitals and other Institutions	...	Nil

### FOR WASSERMANN REACTION :

For Treatment Centre	... ..	101
For Practitioners	... ..	63
For Hospitals and other Institutions	...	Nil

### FOR GONOCOCCAL INSPECTION :

For Treatment Centre	... ..	19
For Practitioners	... ..	4
For Hospitals and other Institutions	...	Nil

Several practitioners made applications for supplies of Neokharsivan during the year.

## Inspection and Supervision of Foodstuffs.

---

### MILK SUPPLY.

On December 31st the names on the register included 92 retail purveyors of milk, 54 cow-keepers and 13 wholesale purveyors of milk.

### MILK LICENSES.

The following licenses were issued during the year:—

There were two Producers' Licenses, authorising the use of the Special Designation, "Accredited," in respect of farms at which the milk was bottled at the farm.

Four Dealers' Licenses, authorising the use of the Special Designation, "Pasteurised."

One Pasteuriser's License, authorising the use of the Special Designation, "Pasteurised," in relation to milk treated by the Pasteurising process at Merthyr.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors paid 400 visits of inspection to the dairies and cowsheds, and 54 notices were served under the regulations in respect of dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops. The condition of the cowsheds is now satisfactory, but needs continual vigilance. A dairy is provided in conjunction with every cowshed.

Forty-six samples of milk were reported dirty by the analyst, and 39 slightly dirty, out of a total of 117 which were examined. The necessary warning was given and advice regarding the methods of avoiding contamination. I regret to say that much of the contaminated milk is derived from adjoining farms outside the area.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSE AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Nine-hundred-and-sixty visits were made for the purpose of meat inspection by the Sanitary Inspectors, who all possess the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods.

Slaughtering since April, 1940, is carried on at the Star Slaughter-House.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

Twenty-one slaughter-men were given licenses during the year, and the provisions of the above Act regarding the humane and scientific slaughter of animals, including sheep and lambs, were carried out.

#### NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED :

Cattle: 1,202 ; Sheep, 21,142 ; Pigs, 81 ; Calves, 1,103.

#### MEAT CONDEMNED :

Beef, 32,406-lbs. ; Pork, 757-lbs. ; Beef Offal, 15,857-lbs ; Pig Offal, 139-lbs. ; Mutton, 1,079-lbs. ; Veal 355-lbs. ; Sheep Offal, 7609 -lbs. ; Rabbits, 124.

#### IMPORTED MEAT CONDEMNED :

Beef, 1,642-lbs. Mutton, 95-lbs. ; Pork, 256-lbs. ; Veal, 138-lbs. ; Imported Livers, 254½-lbs. ; Bacon, 1,188-lbs.

#### OTHER FOODS :

Apples, 1 can ; Apple Jelly, 12 tins ; Beans, 354 tins ; Beef Loaf, 31 ; Beef Paste, 5 jars ; Beetroot, 5 tins ; Bread,



214 loaves ; Brisket Beef, 9 tins ; Butter, 5-lbs. ; Cabbage, 28-lbs. ; Cake Mixture, 600-lbs. ; Carrots, 2 tins ; Cheese, 53 lbs ; Cocoa, 11 packets ; Confectionery, 2-lbs. ; Cod Fillets, 343 lbs. ; Corn Beef, 3 tins ; Chocolate Fudge, 35-lbs. ; Custard Powder, 163-lbs. ; Dessert Powder, 390-lbs. ; Dinners, 13 tins ; Eggs (liquid), 45 cans ; Eggs (powder), 141-lbs. ; Egg Substitute, 228 tins ; Fish, 1,415-lbs. ; Fish Paste, 11 tins ; Fish Roll, 11 tins ; Flour, 45-lbs. ; Fruit (preserved), 32-lbs. ; Ham (chopped), 61 tins + 168½-lbs. ; Hake, 70-lbs. ; Haricot Beans, 424-lbs. ; Heinz Beans, 3 tins ; Herrings, 22 tins ; Luncheon Meat, 120-lbs. + 115 tins ; Jam, 9 tins and 96 pots ; Melon Jam, 5 pots ; Peach Jam, 12 pots ; Plum Jam, 49 pots ; Raspberry Jam, 1 pot ; Strawberry Jam, 1 pot ; Seedless Jam, 1 pot ; Kem, 12-tins ; Kippers, 71-lbs. ; Lentils, 3-cwts ; Lobster, 1 tin ; Lunch Tongue, 1 tin ; Loaf (party), 12 tins ; Mackerel, 2 tins ; Margarine 18 tins ; Marmalade, 41 jars ; Master Mixed Powder, 78 tins ; Meals, 3 ; Meat Paste, 1 jar ; Milk, 1799 pints ; Milk (evaporated) 85 tins ; Milk (full cream), 4 tins ; Milk (Powder, 14 tins ; Minced Beef, 17-lbs. Mince Loaf, 7 tins ; Mixed Cake Powder, 460 packets ; Mor, 20 tins ; Muscat Raisins, 28-lbs. ; Mustard, 22-lbs. ; Nestles Milk, 7 tins ; Oats, 9-lbs ; Onions, 4,864-lbs. ; Oranges, 224-lbs. ; Ox Tongue, 4 tins ; Other Meat Foods, 12 tins ; Onions (pickled), 3 bottles ; Pears, 3 tins ; Pea Flour, 156 packets ; Peas, 66 cans ; Peas, Carrots and Vegetables, 18 tins ; Peaches, 5 tins ; Pickles, 237 bottles ; Pickled Cabbage, 1 pot ; Pilchards, 271 tins ; Plums, 46 tins ; Pork Sausage, 2 tins ; Pork Luncheon Meat, 224 tins ; Pork and Beans, 6 tins ; Potatos, 176-lbs. ; Prepared Meals, 3 tins ; Prem, 78 tins ; Prunes, 127½-lbs. ; Pudding Mixture, 132 packets ; Raisins, 25-lbs. ; Ready Meals, 3 tins ; Salad Dressing, 6 packets ; Salmon, 126 tins ; Sardines, 74 tins ; Sausage, 354-lbs. ; Sausage Meat, 67 tins ; Semolina, 78-lbs. ; Self Raising Flour, 108-lbs. ; Shredded Wheat, 1 packet ; Snack 1 tin ; Soup, 26 tins ; Soup (mixed), 3,164 packets ; Spam, 3 tins ; Stewed Steak 44 tins , Split Peas, 6-cwt. ; Sugar, 224-lbs. ; Sweets, 6-lbs. ; Syrup 14 tins ; Tang, 2 tins ; Tea, 70¼-lbs. ; Tomato Puree, 8 tins ; Tomatos, 2,136-lbs. ; Tongue, 37-lbs. ; Vegetables, 432-lbs. , Vegetable Soup, 20 tins ; Wheat Flakes, 47 packets,

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Forty-three notices to provide or repair cisterns in w.c.'s, and 28 notices to replace long hopper pans, have been served. In addition, 331 notices were served to repair dilapidated, defective and choked drains.

## SCAVENGING.

### DISTRICT No. 1.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE takes place on alternate days.

TOWN. The refuse from the Town area was deposited at the Wern Field, Llwyncelyn.

TRADE REFUSE is collected on specific days, and charges made by the Corporation.

### DISTRICT No. 2.

DOWLAIS. The refuse of the district is disposed of at :—

- (1) Gellifaelog Cwm.
- (2) Caeracca ; and in very much smaller quantities at :
- (3) Blaen Dowlais and
- (4) Dowlais Top.

### DISTRICT No. 3.

REFUSE COLLECTION. Collection of refuse takes place on alternate days.

REFUSE DISPOSAL. The refuse from the lower part of the district, viz., Bethesda Street, Morgantown, and streets on the left of Brecon Road which are in Cyfarthfa Ward, and all refuse from Park and the lower end of Penydarren is deposited at the Wern Field, Llwyncelyn.

The refuse from the upper portion of the district (Penydarren Ward) is deposited in the old brewery hollow at Gellifaelog.

#### DISTRICT No. 4.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE takes place on alternate days.

#### REFUSE DISPOSAL—

*Abercanaid and Pentrebach.*—Refuse from these districts was deposited on sites near Abercanaid Station and in a field near Workmen's Club, Castle Street, Pentrebach.

*Troedyrhiw, Merthyr Vale and Aberfan.*—Refuse collected in these districts was deposited on the south side of the Sewage Farm, near The Grove.

*Treharris and Quakers' Yard.*—Refuse collected in these districts was deposited west of Cardiff Road, near Pontygwaith and near river, south side of Woodlands, Quakers Yard.

Trade Refuse is collected, the usual charge being made by the Corporation.

# SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Of the Notices served, 485 were Statutory and 725 Informal.

## DISTRICTS

<i>Nuisances detected—</i>	No. 1	No. 4	No. 3	No. 2	Tot'l
1. Dilapidated, defective and choked drains ... ..	84	82	86	79	331
2. Insufficient w.c. accommodation ... ..	8	13	2	10	33
3. To open and repair slop drains	73	73	87	64	297
4. To provide slop drains ...	3	4	6	3	16
5. To drain urinals ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
6. To provide cisterns in w.c.'s ...	5	10	14	14	43
7. To pave backyards ... ..	9	12	14	—	35
8. To repair stable drains ...	—	—	—	—	—
9. To provide manure receptacles	—	—	—	—	—
10. To remove foul accumulations	13	44	17	27	101
11. To repair dilapidated dwellings	41	42	25	33	141
12. To cleanse dwelling-houses ...	19	21	18	20	78
13. To provide rainwater troughing	65	88	80	60	293
14. To prevent escape of sewer gas into houses ... ..	6	18	12	8	44
15. To ventilate drains ... ..	3	3	8	1	15
16. To remove fowls, animals, &c.	—	—	8	2	10
17. To prevent overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
18. Under Slaughterhouse Byelaws	—	—	—	—	—
19. Under Factory Act ... ..	7	16	12	9	44
20. Under Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations ... ..	9	13	20	12	54
21. To provide a separate water supply ... ..	1	—	—	—	1
22. To prevent pollution of brook	—	12	18	—	30
23. Common Lodging-houses ...	5	—	—	6	11

SANITARY INSPECTIONS—*continued.*

	DISTRICTS				
	No. 1	No. 4	No. 3	No. 2	Tot'l
<i>Nuisances detected—</i>					
24. Houses let in lodgings ...	12	—	5	4	21
25. To repair defective roofs causing dampness ...	109	129	99	102	439
26. To remove long hopper pans...	11	2	12	3	28
27. To provide sinks in houses ...	—	—	—	—	—
28. To connect drainage cesspit to sewer ...	—	—	—	—	—
29. To cleanse cesspit ...	—	4	4	—	8
30. To close stable as insanitary...	—	—	—	—	—
31. To divide common backyard...	—	—	—	—	—
32. To provide proper coalplaces...	4	2	5	—	11
33. Other nuisances ...	57	73	62	54	246

## INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR :

House-to-house ...	271	279	281	264	1095
Infectious diseases investigation	190	181	170	170	711
Infectious diseases re-visited ...	170	159	148	152	629
Slaughter-houses ...	268	293	279	130	970
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	89	115	87	109	400
Common Lodging-houses ...	46	—	—	51	97
Houses let in lodgings ...	91	11	40	55	197
Mechanical Factories ...	64	79	58	61	262
Non-Mechanical Factories ...	80	84	70	74	308
Complaints received ...	64	65	67	76	272

## RESULTS OF THE ABOVE INSPECTIONS :

Nuisances detected ...	515	664	614	511	2304
Notices issued ...	286	330	286	327	1229
Premises disinfected ...	190	173	170	170	703
Clothing disinfected ...	190	173	170	170	703

	<i>ft.</i>	<i>ft.</i>	<i>ft.</i>	<i>ft.</i>	<i>ft.</i>
Length of drain tested ...	930	807	776	1156	3669

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are 11 common lodging-houses in the Borough, and 97 visits of inspection were made by the Inspectors. Seven notices were served during the year to abate nuisances or remedy defects. The conditions generally may be said to be satisfactory ; and, as reported previously, the accommodation is considerably in excess of the demand.

## HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

Forty-nine remain on the Register. One-hundred-and-ninety-seven visits of inspection were made by the Sanitary Inspectors, and 24 notices were served to abate nuisances or remedy defects.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are now 5 premises where offensive trades are carried on : gut-scrapers, 2 ; fellmongers, 1 ; knackers, 1 ; fat-rendering, 1.\* Complaints of offensive effluvia received during the year were promptly dealt with and remedied.

## SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition has been reported on in the School Medical Report to the Board of Education. The action taken in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious diseases is in conformity with the Memorandum on the Closure and Exclusion from School, 1925, issued conjointly by the Ministry of Health and the Board of Education.

## RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ORDER, 1919.

During the year the Inspectors report that 170 premises, including tips, culverts, allotments, schools, business premises, and the Sewage Farm, Troedyrhiw have been dealt with. When



complaints are received, investigations are made at the complainant's and adjoining premises. Three series of baits are laid at each infested premises, with a week's time intervening between each. Gratifying results have been obtained by the added interest taken by the tradesmen and others of the notification of the rodents, and it has been seldom necessary to revisit the premises after three series of baits have been laid. Nothing is left undone, month by month, to thoroughly cope with the extermination of the rodents.

---

### **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

There are 79 factories with mechanical power (including bakehouses), and 262 visits of inspection were made.

The number of factories where mechanical power is not used is 102, and the number of visits paid were 308.

---

### **SHOPS ACTS, 1912—1938.**

The following is the report of the Shops Inspector for the year ending 31st December, 1944 :—

In connection with the registration and inspection of shops 962 visits were paid to shops and other business premises, to check the hours of employment of young persons under the Shops Act, 1934, under the Sunday Trading (Restrictions) Act, 1936, and under the Young Persons Employment Act, 1938.

During the year 1,452 visits were paid to Shops, Warehouses, Cinemas and Billiards Halls, and as a result of 923 visits in connection with Section 10, Shops Act 1934, defects were noted in 68 instances ; as a result of the service of informal notices suitable and sufficient means were provided for regulation of temperature, sanitary conveniences, lighting and washing facilities as follows :—

REQUIREMENT.				
		<i>Number</i> <i>Defective</i>	<i>Informal</i> <i>notices served</i>	<i>Statutory</i> <i>notices served</i>
Provision and maintenance of :—				
1. Sanitary Conveniences ...	39	39	Nil	
2. Washing facilities ...	11	11	Nil	
3. Temperature... ..	6	6	Nil	
4. Ventilation ... ..	8	8	Nil	
5. Facilities for meals... ..	4	4	Nil	
TOTAL ...	68	68	Nil	

## HOUSING.

						DISTRICTS				
						No. 1	No. 4	No. 3	No. 2	Tot'l
Number of houses inspected	...					271	279	281	264	1095
Defective drains	...	...	...			43	74	63	80	260
Choked drains	...	...	...			38	81	58	42	219
Unventilated drains	...	...	...			2	3	2	4	11
Pans in a filthy condition	...					21	24	20	16	81
Absence of, or defectine cisterns...						17	10	20	25	72
Absence of, or defective sinks...						10	6	5	7	28
Insufficient w.c. accommodation						5	13	7	9	34
Houses in a filthy condition	...					14	21	18	18	71
Houses in bad repair and damp						41	42	25	33	141
Broken pavement in yard	...					16	12	32	4	64
Animals and fowls in yard	...					3	—	12	10	25
Refuse in yard	...	...	...			12	44	36	20	112
Other nuisances	...	...	...			52	50	77	48	227

## HOUSING STATISTICS.

## NEW HOUSES.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) ...	—
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—	
(i) By the Local Authority ... ..	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons ... ..	—

## 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Total
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected (for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	461	460	451	434	1806
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	674	618	613	596	2501
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	271	279	281	264	1095
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	425	558	413	400	1796
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	41	42	25	33	141
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	174	217	179	162	732

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	156	166	143	153	618
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS—*continued.*

	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Total
<b>B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—</b>					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	104	135	109	134	482
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :					
(a) By Owners ... ..	76	127	92	97	392
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</b>					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</b>					
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—	—	—	—	—
Premises closed ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
<b>E.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—</b>					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
(a) By Owners ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(b) By Local Authorities in default of Owners... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intentions to close ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS—*continued.*

	(1)	(4)	(3)	(2)	Total
F.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
(4) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number of removals of tenants under Slum Clearance Scheme to complete first year's programme ...	—	—	—	—	—
From Houses ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
From Cellars or parts of Houses ...	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and effects disinfected ...	—	—	—	—	—

## 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY, DISTINGUISHING THOSE BUILT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS AND HELD UNDER PART 2 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925, and (2) OTHER POWERS.

Houses owned by the Local Authority—1278.

By Purchase ... ..	7
Under 1890 Act ... ..	347
Under 1919 Act ... ..	236
Under 1924 Act ... ..	226
Under 1930 Act ... ..	108
Under 1936 Act ... ..	354
	} 462

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The following table shows the Inspectors' work regarding the eradication of bed bugs.

## (a) NUMBER OF COUNCIL HOUSES—

(i) Found infested ... ..	12
(ii) Disinfested ... ..	12

## (b) NUMBER OF OTHER HOUSES—

(i) Found infested ... ..	117
(ii) Disinfested ... ..	117

These houses were visited either in normal house-to-house inspections or as the result of complaints from the tenants. The Inspectors report that excellent results have been obtained by cleaning and scrubbing, carried out systematically, with soap and water. In addition, sulphur fumigation, Izal spray and insecticide sprays were used.



## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

The regulations generally have been satisfactorily carried out during the year. The handling and transport of meat is observed in accordance with the above regulations, and the hawkers' carts are protected in such a manner as to prevent contamination of the meat.

Notice of emergency slaughter continues to be given where necessary. The slaughter of pigs, etc., even for home consumption, is carried out at the cottager's premises, prior notice being given in each case as to the place and time of slaughter.

All meat-carriers in the Borough are provided with and wear washable head-covering and overalls when carrying meat.

### NUMBER KILLED :

Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
763	439	11,03	21,142	81

### NUMBER INSPECTED :

					Total Inspected
763	439	1,103	21,142	81	23,528

### ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :

#### *Whole carcasses condemned—*

Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
5	11	7	39	—

#### *Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned—*

Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
274	249	5	19,23	4

PERCENTAGE of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis—10.7%.

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :

*Whole carcasses condemned—*

Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
14	31	1	—	3

*Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned—*

Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
122	107	—	—	27

PERCENTAGE of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis—1.29.

## INSPECTION OF PLACES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

RESTAURANT KITCHENS. Including licensed premises where food is prepared, there are 48 in the Borough.

There are also 10 factory canteens in the Borough.

FISH-FRYING AND CHIP POTATO SHOPS. There are 31 in the Borough, and these are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspectors, who report favourably as to their conditions and absence of nuisance.

BAKEHOUSES. Fifty-eight premises were in use during the year, including one certified underground bakehouse. Three hundred-and-three visits were made during the year; 26 notices of repairs and lime-washing, etc., were served. The conditions generally were satisfactory.

BUTCHERS. Small goods, including brawn, polonies, pies, faggots, etc., were prepared at 31 butchers' establishments and four cottages. At the butchers' establishments the work is carried out in a special room, and electric power is available. In

the cottages a small business is done. All the premises are regularly visited by the Inspectors, and the conditions found to be satisfactory.

---

Mr. R. P. Charles acts as Public Analyst, and the following is his report for the year :—

### FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT.

During the year 117 formal samples of milk were taken for analysis. In 12 cases the samples contained added water to the extent of :—

2.0%, 1.8%, 2.3%, 2.0%, 2.1%, 2.0%, 2.0%, 2.0%  
2.0%, 2.0%, 2.0%, 2.0%.

And 2 samples were deficient in fat to the extent of :—  
2.0%, 2.0%.

---

Number of samples examined for the presence of a  
preservative—Milk ... .. 117

Samples of the following foods were taken for analysis :—

	Informal Samples.	Genuine.
Bloater Paste .....	1 ...	1
Baking Powder .....	3 ...	3
Custard Powder .....	1 ...	1
Cocoa.....	1 ...	1
Coffee.....	1 ...	1
Crab Paste .....	1 ...	1
Chocolate Semolina Pudding .....	1 ...	1
Cremola.....	1 ...	1
Cake Flour Pudding .....	1 ...	1
Chicken and Ham .....	1 ...	1
Dried Egg.....	1 ...	1
Fish Roll .....	1 ...	1
Gelatine.....	1 ...	1
Ground Ginger .....	1 ...	1
Glenmar Pudding .....	1 ...	1
Gravy Browning.....	1 ...	1
Essences .....	2 ...	2
Ham and Beef Paste .....	1 ...	1
Junket Powder .....	1 ...	1
Lemon Essence .....	1 ...	1
Lentils .....	1 ...	1
Lobster Paste .....	1 ...	1
Lemonine .....	1 ...	1
Macaroni.....	2 ...	2
Mustard, Pot of .....	2 ...	2
Meat Paste .....	3 ...	3
Oatmeal.....	2 ...	2
Pepper .....	1 ...	1
Raspberry Essence .....	1 ...	1
Raspberry Cordial .....	1 ...	1
Rice .....	6 ...	6
Rolled Oats .....	1 ...	1
Salmon and Pilchard Paste .....	1 ...	1
Split Peas .....	3 ...	3
Sardine and Tomato Paste.....	1 ...	1

	Informal Samples.	Genuine.
Sago .....	1 ...	1
Spiceman Compound .....	1 ...	1
Spaghetti .....	1 ...	1
Sild.....	1 ...	1
Scone Mixture.....	1 ...	1
Semolina .....	1 ...	1
Sugar .....	1 ...	1
Tomato Soup .....	1 ...	1
Table Cream .....	1 ...	1
Tea .....	1 ...	1
Pudding Mixture .....	1 ...	1
Yeast Extract .....	1 ...	1
Yorkshire Pudding Mixture .....	1 ...	1

Of the food examined for the presence of preservatives, all were found to be within the prescribed limits.

An Informal Sample of Bullet Tapioca was taken and found to contain extraneous matter which rendered it unfit for human consumption.

# Dental Report for 1944.

---

The DENTAL OFFICER submits the following Report :—

Number of mothers treated at Clinic	241
Fillings .....	59
Extractions .....	1174
Local anæsthetics .....	131
Other operations.....	47
General anæsthetics .....	190
Attendances made .....	333

During the year 1944 Fifty-Four mothers received artificial dentures.

Infant Welfare cases :—

General anæsthetics .....	42
Fillings .....	37
Extractions .....	281
Local anæsthetics .....	54
Other operations.....	37
Attendances made .....	269

JAMES A. WYLIE, L.D.S., R.F.P.S.,  
Dental Officer.

---

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.



TABLE I.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING THE YEAR 1944.

Name of District : MERTHYR TYDFIL.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	Over 65
ALL CAUSES ... ..	M	482	31	8	14	52	153	224
	F	423	39	7	9	49	109	210
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Measles ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	M	3	—	—	3	—	—	—
	F	5	—	3	2	—	—	—
6. Influenza ... ..	M	5	—	—	—	1	3	1
	F	5	1	1	—	—	3	—
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ..	M	19	—	—	—	10	9	—
	F	12	—	—	—	8	4	—
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	M	8	—	2	—	4	2	—
	F	3	1	—	1	1	—	—
11. Syphilis... ..	M	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	M	55	—	—	1	4	24	26
	F	56	—	—	1	7	23	25
14. Diabetes ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	8	—	—	—	—	6	2
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ... ..	M	49	—	—	—	—	10	39
	F	58	—	—	—	—	18	40
16. Heart Disease... ..	M	120	—	—	—	7	46	67
	F	95	—	—	1	9	24	61
17. Aneurism ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	M	7	—	—	—	—	1	6
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
19. Bronchitis ... ..	M	32	2	—	—	1	14	15
	F	31	3	1	—	—	3	24
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	M	24	6	2	—	5	7	4
	F	13	3	—	—	6	1	3
21. Other Respiratory Diseases... ..	M	13	—	—	—	1	9	3
	F	3	—	1	—	—	2	—
22. Peptic Ulcer ... ..	M	5	—	—	—	2	3	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	1	1
23. Diarrhoea ... ..	M	6	6	—	—	—	—	—
	F	7	7	—	—	—	—	—
24. Appendicitis ... ..	M	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver ... ..	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	M	12	1	—	—	7	—	4
	F	12	4	—	—	1	1	6
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	M	10	—	—	—	—	5	5
	F	16	—	—	—	3	7	6
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	F	3	—	—	—	3	—	—
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, &c. ... ..	M	16	15	—	—	1	—	—
	F	17	17	—	—	—	—	—
32. Suicide ... ..	M	7	—	—	—	—	3	4
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
33. Other Violence ... ..	M	21	—	2	6	6	6	1
	F	6	1	1	—	1	2	1
34. Other Causes ... ..	M	63	—	1	3	2	9	48
	F	59	2	—	3	7	12	35
35. Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	M	4	—	—	1	—	1	2
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36. All Causes ... ..	M	482	31	8	14	52	153	224
	F	423	39	7	9	49	109	210

Under 1 year	Legitimate	Illegitimate
	M 27 ... 4	F 39 ... —



TABLE 2.

## INFANT MORTALITY 1944.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH				Under 1 week	under 1 month	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 mths.	3 months and under 6 mths.	6 months and under 12mths.	Total Deaths under one year
All Causes	Certified ...	...	...	14	14	28	13	17	12	70
	Uncertified ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart ...				—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...				—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Abdominal Tuberculous (C) ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous) ...				—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Convulsions ...				—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Spina Bifida ...				1	—	1	1	—	—	2
Bronchitis ...				—	1	1	2	2	—	5
Pneumonia (All Forms)...				—	1	1	3	4	1	9
Diarrhoea ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis ...				—	1	1	3	5	4	13
Infantile Jaundice ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morbus Corbus ...				1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Asthenia ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ...				—	1	1	1	—	—	2
Atelectasis ...				3	—	3	—	—	—	3
Congenital Debility ...				1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth ...				5	7	12	—	2	—	14
Atrophy and Debility ...				—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes ...				3	3	6	2	2	5	15
				14	14	28	13	17	12	70

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate —1047  
 { Illegitimate— 39

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate — 66  
 { Illegitimate— 4



TABLE 2a.

## INFANT MORTALITY 1944.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Dowlais Ward	P'darren Ward	Park Ward	Cyfarthfa Ward	Town Ward	Plymouth Ward	Merthyr Valé Ward	Treharris Ward	Total
All Causes { Certified ...	12	15	6	8	8	6	11	4	70
{ Uncertified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Asthenia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Abdominal Tuberculous (C)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Not Tuberculous)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Spina Bifida ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Bronchitis ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	5
Pneumonia (All Forms)	1	3	1	3	1	—	—	—	9
Diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastro Enteritis ...	3	5	2	—	1	2	—	—	13
Infantile Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morbus Cordus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Suffocation ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis ...	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Congenital Debility ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Premature Birth ...	—	5	—	—	1	1	4	3	14
Atrophy and Debility ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes ...	3	—	1	3	1	3	4	—	15
	12	15	6	8	8	6	11	4	70

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate —1047  
 { Illegitimate— 39

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate —66  
 { Illegitimate— 4





TABLE 3.

TABLE 3.—ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1944 for the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937, which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH, INCLUDING  
INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical Power ...	262	10	Nil
Factories without Mechanical Power ...	269	24	Nil
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) ... ..	39	1	Nil
Total ...	570	35	Nil

### 3a.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (Section 1) ...	26	26	—	—
Overcrowding (Section 2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (Section 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (Section 4) ...	3	3	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (Section 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences S. 7 { Insufficient ... Unsuitable or Defective ... Not Separate for Sexes ...	2	2	—	—
	2	2	—	—
	2	2	—	—
Other Offences ...	—	—	—	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)				
TOTAL ...	35	35	—	—

3b.—OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES. Section 108.

NATURE OF WORK (1)	Instances (2)	Notices Served (3)	Prosecutions (4)
WEARING APPAREL :— Making, etc...	...	Nil	Nil
TOTAL ...	...	Nil	Nil

